

# THE WORKS OF SIR THOMAS MALORY

EDITED BY

EUGÈNE VINAVER

PROFESSOR OF FRENCH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE  
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

IN THREE VOLUMES  
VOLUME II

OXFORD  
AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

1947

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS  
AMEN HOUSE, E.C. 4  
London Edinburgh Glasgow New York  
Toronto Melbourne Cape Town Bombay  
Calcutta Madras  
GEOFFREY CUMBERLEGE  
PUBLISHER TO THE UNIVERSITY

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN

## CONTENTS

THE BOOK OF SIR TRISTRAM DE LYONES ( <i>contd.</i> )	453
III. Le Cote Male Tayle . . . . .	455
IV. Tristram's Madness and Exile . . . . .	477
V. The Castle of Maidens . . . . .	519
VI. The Round Table . . . . .	541
VII. King Mark . . . . .	573
VIII. Alexander the Orphan . . . . .	629
IX. The Tournament at Surluse . . . . .	649
X. Joyous Gard . . . . .	671
XI. The Red City . . . . .	707
XII. The Tournament at Lonezep . . . . .	723
XIII. Sir Palomides . . . . .	765
XIV. Launcelot and Elaine . . . . .	787
XV. Conclusion . . . . .	835

THE TALE OF THE SANKGREAL BRIEFLY DRAWN OUT OF FRENCH, WHICH IS A TALE CHRONICLED FOR ONE OF THE TRUEST AND ONE OF THE HOLIEST THAT IS IN THIS WORLD . . . . .	847
I. The Departure . . . . .	849
II. The Miracles . . . . .	873
III. Sir Perceval . . . . .	901
IV. Sir Launcelot . . . . .	921
V. Sir Gawain . . . . .	937
VI. Sir Bors . . . . .	951
VII. Sir Galahad . . . . .	977
VIII. The Castle of Corbenic . . . . .	1007
IX. The Miracle of Galahad . . . . .	1021





SIR TRISTRAM DE LYONES

III—XV

[*Winchester MS.*, ff. 187<sup>v</sup>—346<sup>v</sup>;  
*Caxton*, Books IX—XII]



### III

## LA COTE MALE TAYLE

[*Winchester MS.*, ff. 187<sup>v</sup>-195<sup>v</sup>;  
*Caxton, Book IX, chs. 1-9*]



## CAXTON'S RUBRICS

1. How a yonge man came into the courte of kyng Arthur and how syr Kaye called hym in scorne La Cote Male Tayle.
2. How a damoyssel came into the courte and desyred a knyght to take on hym an enquest which La Cote Male Tayle emprised.
3. How Le Cote Male Tayle overthrewe syr Dagonet, the kynges fole, and of the rebuke that he had of the damoyssel.
4. How Le Cote Male Tayle fought ayenst an hondred knyghtes, and how he escaped† by the meane of a lady.
5. How syr Launcelot cam to the courte and herde of La Cote Male Tayle, and how he folowed after hym, and how La Cote Male Tayle was prysoner.
6. How syr Launcelot faught wyth six knyghtes and after wyth syr Bryan, and how he delyverd the prysonners.
7. How syr Launcelot mette wyth the damoyssel named Maledysaunt, and named hyr the Damoyssel Bien Pensaunt.
8. How Le Cote Male Tayle was taken prysoner and after rescowed by syr Launcelot, and how syr Launcelot overcam four brethren.
9. How syr Launcelot maad Le Cote Mayle lord of the castel of Pendragon, and after was made knyght of the Rounde Table.

† S escaped



HERE LEVYTH OF THE TALE OF SIR LAMEROK AND OF SYR  
TRYSTRAMYS, AND HERE BEGYNNYTH THE TALE OF SYR LA  
COTE MALE TAYLE THAT WAS A GOOD KNYGHT

TO the courte of kynge Arthure there cam a yonge man (1)  
bygly made, and he was rychely beseyne, and he desyred  
to be made a knyght of the kynges. But his overgarmente  
sate overthwartely, howbehit hit was ryche clothe of golde.

'What is youre name?' seyde kynge Arthure. 187v

'Sir, my name is Br[e]wnor le Noyre, and within shorte  
space ye shall know that I am comyn of goode kynne.' 10

'Hit may well be,' seyde sir Kay the Senesciall, 'but in  
mokyngye ye shall be called "La Cote Male Tayle",' that is  
as muche to sey 'The Evyll-Shapyn Cote'.

'Hit is a grete thyngye that thou askyste,' seyde the kynge.  
'But for what cause weryst thou that ryche cote?' 15

'Hit is for som cause, sir,' he answerde. 'I had a fathir, a  
noble knyght, and as he rode an-huntyng uppon a day hit  
happed hym to ley hym downe to slepe, and there cam a  
knyght that had bene longe his enemy. And whan he saw  
he was faste on slepe he all to-hew hym, and thys same cote 20  
had my fadir on that tyme. And that makyth this coote to  
sytte so evyll uppon me, for the strokes be on hit as I founde  
hit, and never shall hit be amendid for me. Thus, to  
have my fadyrs deth in remembraunce, I were this coote  
tyll I be revenged. And because ye ar called the moste 25  
nobelyst kynge of the worlde, I com to you to make me a  
knyght.'

'Sir,' seyde sir Lamerok and sir Gaheris, 'hit were well  
done to make hym knyght, for hym besemyth well of persone  
and of countenaunce that he shall preve a good knyght and 30  
a myghty. For, sir, and ye be remembird, evyn suche one  
was sir Launcelot whan he cam fyrst into this courte, and  
full fewe of us knew from whens he cam. And now is he

1 C leue we of 2 C the historye of 3 that was a good knyght *not in C. Cf.*  
*p. 451 29-31* 4 C At the Courte 6 C the kyng 9 C Syre saide he my name  
is Breunor le noyre 11-12 C Seneschal but in mockage 14-15 C kyng And  
for 15-16 C cote telle me for I can wel thynke for somme cause hit is Syre he  
17 C on huntyngye 21 C on the same tyme 22 C ben on 23 C shalle  
be 26 C you that ye shold make 30-1 C good man and a good knyght

preved the inan of moste worshyp in the worlde, and all your courte and Rounde Table is by sir Launcelot worshypped and amended, more than by any knyght lyvyng.

‘That is trouthe,’ seyde the kynge, ‘and to-morow at youre requeste I shall make hym knyght.’

So on the morne there was an harte founden, and thydir rode kyng Arthure wyth a company of his knyghtes to sle that herte. And this yonge man that sir Kay named La Cote Male Tayle was there leffte behynde wyth quene Gwenyvere

10 And by a suddeyne adventure there was an horryble lyon kepte in a towre of stoon, and he brake lowse and cam hurlyng before the quene and her knyghtes. And whan the quene sawe the lyon she cryed oute and fledde and prayed hir knyghtes to rescow her. And there was none but twelve  
15 knyghtes that abode, and all the other fledde. Than seyde La Cote Male Tayle,

‘Now I se that all cowherde knyghtes be nat dede,’ and therewithall he drew his swerde and dressed hym before the lyon. And that lyon gaped wyde and cam uppon hym  
20 rawmpyng to have slayne hym, and he agayne smote hym in the myddys of the hede, that hit claff in sundir and so dayshed downe to the erthe.

And anone hit was tolde the quene how the yong ma[n] that sir Kay named La Cote Male Tayle had slayne the lyon,  
25 and anone with that the kynge com home and the quene tolde hym of that adventure. He was well pleased and seyde,

‘Uppon payne of myne hede, he shall preve a noble man and feythefull and trewe of his promysel’ And so forthewithall the kynge made hym knyght.

30 ‘Now, sir,’ seyde this yonge knyght, ‘I requyre you and all the knyghtes of the courte that ye calle me none other name but La Cote Mele Tayle: insomuche that sir Kay hath so named me, so woll I be called.’

‘I assente me thereto,’ seyde the kynge.

2 C and alle your Round 3 C now lyuyng 6 C the morou there 11 C  
a stronge Toure of stone and it happened that he at that tyme brake 14-15 C  
none of hem alle but twelue that abode 17 C ben not 20 C he thenne smote  
21 C myddes 8 mydde 21-2 C hede suche a myghty stroke that it clafe his  
hede in sonder and dassed to the erthe 23 W yong mat C yonge man 24  
C\* named by scorne La cote 28 C and a feythful Knyghte and true 31 C of  
youre courte 34 C me wel therto



• And so the same day there cam a damesell into the courte, (2)  
and she brought wyth hir a grete blacke shyld with a whyght  
honde in the myddis holdynge a swerde, and other pyctoure  
was there none in that shyld. Whan kynge Arthure saw her  
he asked her from whens she cam and what she wolde.

‘Sir,’ she seyde, ‘I have rydden longe and many a day with  
this shyld many wayes, and for this cause I am com to youre  
courte: for there was a good knyght that ought this shyld,  
and this knyght had undirtake a grete dede of armys to 188<sup>v</sup>  
encheve hit. And so by myssefortune another stronge 10  
knyght mette with hym by suddeyne aventure, and there  
they fought longe, and aythir wounded othir passynge sore,  
and they were so wery that they lefft that batayle on evyn  
honde. So this knyght that ought the shyld sawe none other  
way but he muste dye, and than he commaunded me to bere 15  
this shyld to the courte of kyng Arthure, he requyrynge and  
prayynge som good knyght to take his shyld, and that he  
wolde fulfille the queste that he was in.’

‘Now what sey ye to this queste?’ seyde kynge Arthure.  
‘Is there here ony of you that woll take uppon you to welde 20  
this shyld?’

Than was there nat one that wolde speke a worde. Than  
sir Kay toke the shyld in his hondis and lyfft hit up.

‘Sir knyght,’ seyde the damesell, ‘what is your name?’

‘Wete you well, my name is sir Kay the Seneschall that 25  
wydewhere is knowyn.’

‘Sir,’ seyde the damesell, ‘lay downe that shyld, for wyte  
thou well hit fallyth nat for you, for he muste be a bettir  
knyght than ye that shall welde this chylde.’

‘Damesell,’ seyde sir Kay, ‘I toke youre shyld nat to that 30  
entente. But go whoso go woll, for I woll nat go with you.’

Than the damesell stood styll a grete whyle and behylde  
many of the knyghtes. Than spake this yonge knyght La  
Cote Male Tayle and seyde,

‘Fayre damesell, I woll take this shyld and the adventure 35

1 C Capitulum secundum Thenne that same 3 and *not in C* 7 for *not in C*  
10 C soo it mysfortuned hym another 13 on *not in C* 14 C this shelde  
20 C you here that wille take vpon hym 22 C one word 23 and lyfft hit  
up *not in C*† 30-1 C\* kay wete ye wel I toke this sheld in my handes by your  
leue for to behold it not to that entent but goo where someuer thou wilt for I  
33 C spak the knyght 34 and seyde *not in C* 35 C the shelde

uppon me, and I wyste whothirward my journey myght be.  
For because I was this day made knyght I wolde take this  
adventure uppon me.'

'What is youre name, fayre yonge man?' seyde the  
5 damesell.

'My name is,' he seyde, 'La Cote Male Tayle.'

'Well may thou be callyd so,' seyde the damesell, "'the'  
knyght wyth the evyll-shapyn coote"! But and thou be so  
189<sup>r</sup> hardy to take on the to beare that shyld and to folowe me,  
10 wete thou well thy skynne shall be as well hewyn as thy cote.'

'As for that,' seyde sir La Cote Male Tayle, 'whan I am  
so hewyn I woll aske you no salff to heale me withall!'

And forthwithall there com into the courte two squyers  
and brought hym grete horsis and his armour and spearys.

15 And anone he was armed and toke his leve.

'Sir, I woll nat,' seyde the kynge, 'be my wyll that ye toke  
uppon you this harde adventure.'

'Sir,' he seyde, 'this adventure is myne, and the fyrste that  
ever I toke uppon, and that woll I folow whatsomever com  
20 of me.'

Than that damesell departed, and so sir La Cote Male  
Tayle faste folowed aftir. And within a whyle he overtoke  
the damesell, and anone she mysseseyde hym in the fowlyst  
maner.

(3) 25 Than sir Kay ordayned sir Dagonet, kynge Arthurs foole,  
to folow aftir La Cote Male Tayle; and there sir Kay  
ordayned that sir Dagonet was horsed and armed, and bade  
hym folow sir La Cote Male Tayle and profyr hym to juste.  
And so he ded, and whan he sawe La Cote Male Tayle he  
30 cryed and bade make hym redy to juste. So sir La Cote Male  
Tayle smote sir Dagonet ovir his horse croupyr.

Than the damesell mocked La Cote Male Tayle and seyde,

'Fye for shame! Now arte thou shamed in kynge Arthurs  
courte, whan they sende a foole to have ado with the, and  
35 specially at thy fyrste justys.'

1 *W* the adventure uppon me what and I wyste whothirward *C* that aduenture  
vpon me soot I wist I shold knowe wheder ward (*see note*) 6 *C* said he 7 *C*  
mayst thou 9 *C* vpon the 11 sir *not in C* 12 *C* no salue 14 *C*  
his speres 16 Sir *not in C* *C* I wold not by my will said the kynge 17 *C*  
that hard 18 *C* said he *W* hthis 21 so sir *not in C* 28 sir *not in C*  
30 *C* badde hym make 31 *W* croupyn (*n for r*) 33 kynge *not in C*

Thus she rode longe and chydde. And so within a whyle there cam sir Bleoberys, the good knyght, and there he justed with sir La Cote Male Tayle. And there syr Bleoberys smote hym so sore that horse and all felle to the erthe. Than sir La Cote Male Tayle arose up lyghtly and dressed his shyld and drew his swerde, and a wolde have done batayle to the uttraunce, for he was woode wroth.

'Nat so,' seyde Bleoberys de Ganys, 'as at this tyme I woll nat fyght uppon foote.' 189<sup>v</sup>

Than the damesell Maledysaunte rebuked hym in the fowleste maner and bade hym 'turne agayne, cowardel!'

'A, damesell,' seyde he, 'I pray you of mercy to myssesay me no more, for my gryff is inow, though ye gryff me no more. Yet I calle me never the worse knyght, though a marys sonne hath fayled me, and also I counte myselff never the worse man for a falle of sir Bleoberys.' 15

So thus he rode with her two dayes, and by fortune there he encountred wyth sir Palomydes, the noble knyght, and in the same wyse sir Palomydes served hym as ded sir Bleoberys toforehonde. Than seyde the damesell, 20

'What doste thou here in my felyship? For thou canste nat sytte no knyght nother wythstonde hym one buffette but yf hit were sir Dagonet.'

'A, fayre damesell, I am nat the worse to take a falle of sir Palomydes. And yett grete dysworshyp have I none, for nother sir Bleoberys nother yett sir Palomydes woll not fyght with me on foote.' 25

'As for that,' seyde the damesell, 'wete you welle they have disdayne and scorne to alyght of their horsis to fyght with suche a lewde knyght as thou arte.' 30

So in the meanewhyle there com sir Mordred, sir Gawaynes brother, and so he felle in felyshyp with the damesell Maledysaunte.

And than they com before the Castell Orgulus, and there

10-13 *W* (*sidenote*): How La Cote Male Tayle justed with sir Bleoberys and had a falle 12 *P* myssay *R*† myssa 13 *C* ye gyue† me (*see note*) 14 Yet not in *C* *C* whan a 15 *C* fayleth 16 *C* wers knyght 17-19 *C* there came sir Palomydes and encountred with hym and he in the same wyse serued hym 20-21 *C* to fore hand What dost thou here in my felauship saide the damoysele maledysaunt thou canst. 26 *C* wold not 28 *C* wete thou 29 *C* to lyghte of 32 *C* in the felauship 34 *C* Orgulous

was suche a custom that there myght com no knyght by the castell but other he muste juste othir be presonere, othir at the leste to lose his horse and harneyse.

And there cam oute two knyghtes ayenste them, and sir Mordred justyd with the formyste, and that knyght of the castell smote sir Mordred downe of his horse. And than sir La Cote Male Tayle justed with that other, and ayther of hem smote downe other horsis to the erthe. And anone they avoyded their horsis and aythir of hem toke othir-  
10 horses.

And than sir La Cote Male Tayle rode unto that knyght  
190<sup>r</sup> that smote downe sir Mordred, and there La Cote Male Tayle wounded hym passynge sore and putte hym frome hys horse, and (he) lay as he had bene dede.

15 So he turned unto hym that mette hym afore, and he toke the flyght towards the castell, and sir La Cote Male Tayle rode afir hym into the Castell Orgulus, and there sir La Cote Male Tayle slew hym.

(4) And anone there cam an hondred knyghtys aboute hym,  
20 and all assayled hym. And whan he sawe hys horse sholde be slayne he alyght and voyded his horse, and so put hym oute of the gate. And whan he had so done he hurled in amonge them and dressed his backe untill a ladyes chambir wall, thynkyng hymselff that he hadde lever dye there with  
25 worshyp than to abyde the rebukes of the Damesell Male-dysaunte.

And so in the meanetyme, as he stood and fought, that lady that hylde that chambir wente oute slyly at a posterne, and withoute the gatys she founde sir La Cote Male Tayle  
30 his horse. And lyghtly she gate hym by the brydyll and tyed hym to the posterne, and than she yode unto her chambir slyly agayne for to beholde how that one knyght faught ayenst an hondred knyghtes.

1 C myght no knyght come      2 C or be prysoner or at      3 C his harneis  
8-9 C smote other doune hors and alle to the erthe And whanne they auoyded their  
horses thenne eyther      11 sir *not in C*      12 C\* and Iusted with hym And there  
13 C taylor hurte & wounded      14 and lay *not in C*†      17 C Orgulous  
21 C\* hors & putte the brydel vnder his feete and so put      23 C vnto      28 C  
lady whos was the chamber      28 C oute      S out      C at her posterne      29 sir  
*not in C*      29-30 C taylor hors      31 C she wente vnto      32 S knyght  
C knyghte

And whan she had beholde hym longe she wente to a wyndow behynde his backe and seyde,

'Thou knyght that fyghtyst wondirly well, but for all that at the laste thou muste nedys dye but yf thou can thorow thy myghty prouesse wynne unto yondir posterne: for there have I fastened th[y] horse to abyde the. But wete thou welle thou muste thynke on thy worshyp and thynke nat to dye, for thou mayste nat wynne unto that posterne withoute thou do nobely and myghtyly.'

Whan sir La Cote Male Tayle harde her sey so he gryped <sup>10</sup> his swerde in his honde and put his shylde fayre before hym, and thorow the thyckyst pres he thryled thorow. And whan he cam to the porsterne he founde there redy four knyghtes, and at two the fyrste strokys he slew two of the knyghtes and the <sup>190</sup> other fledde<sup>1</sup>, and so he wanne his horse and rode frome them. <sup>15</sup>

And all hit was rehersed in kynge Arthurs courte, how he slew twelve knyghtes within the Castell Orgulus.

And so he rode on his way, and in the meanewhyle the damesell seyde unto sir Mordred,

'I wene my foolyssh knyght be othir slayne or takyn <sup>20</sup> presonere.'

And than were they ware and saw hym com rydyng, and whan he was com to them he tolde all how he had spedde and escaped in the dispyte of all the castell, 'and som of the beste of hem woll telle no talys.' <sup>25</sup>

'Thow gabbyst falsely,' seyde the damesell, 'that dare I make good! For as a foole and a dastarde to all knyghthode they have latte the passe.'

'That may ye preve,' seyde La Cote Male Tayle.

With that she sente a corroure of hers that allway rode <sup>30</sup> with her, and so he rode thydir lyghtly and spurred how and in what wyse that knyght ascaped oute of that castell. Than

3 C knyght thou fyghtest    6 Chaue I    SI haue    6 W there    11 C  
handes    S put    C putt    12 C he thrulled thorou them And    13 C  
posterne    14-15 C\* slewe two of the knyghtes & the other fledde    F (MS.  
B.N. fr. 103 f. 102<sup>r</sup> col. 2): vient a une dez portes du chastel que quatre sergens  
vouloient ja fermer. Et il leur vient a l'espee traite et fait semblant de les occire.  
Et eulx ourent tel paour qu'ilz ne l'oserent attendre, et cil passe oultre    16 C alle  
as it was it was    17 C Orgulous    22 C ware where he came    24 C despyte  
of them alle and    26 C Thou lyest falsly    27 C good but as a foole    31 C\*  
her for to knowe the trouthe of this dede and soo    31-2 C and asked how and in  
what maner that la cote male. tayle was escaped    31 W haw (a for o)

all the knyghtes cursed hym and seyde he was a fende and no man, 'for he hath slayne here twelve of oure beste knyghtis, and we went [unto] this day that hit had bene to muche for sir Trystrames de Lyones othir for sir Launcelot de Lake. And in dyspyte and magré of us all he is departed frome us.'

And so hir curroure com agayne and tolde the damesell all how sir La Cote Male Tayle spedde at the Castell Orgulus. Than she smote downe the hede and seyde but lytyll.

- 10 'Be my hede,' seyde sir Mordred to the damesell, 'ye are gretly to blame so to rebuke hym, for I warne you playnly he is a good knyght, and I doute nat but he shall preve a noble man. But as yette he may nat sytte sure on horsebacke, for he that muste be a good horseman hit muste com to usage  
15 and excercise. But whan he commyth to the strokis of his swerde he is than noble and myghty. And that saw sir Bleoberys and sir Palomydes; for wete you well they were  
191<sup>r</sup> wyly men of warre, for they wolde know anone, whan they sye a yonge knyght, by his rydyng, how they were sure to  
20 gyffe hym a falle frome his horse othir a grete buffett. But for the moste party they wyll nat lyght on foote with yonge knyghtes, for they are myghtyly and strongly armed.

'For in lyke wyse syr Launcelot du Lake, whan he was fyrste made knyght, he was oftyn put to the worse on horse-  
25 backe, but ever uppon foote he recoverde his renowne and slew and defowled many knyghtes of the Rounde Table. And therefore the rebukes that sir Launcelot ded unto many knyghtes causyth them t[hat] be men of prouesse to beware, for oftyn tyme I have seyne the olde preved knyghtes  
30 rebuked and slayne by them that were but yonge begynners.'

Thus they rode sure talkyng by the wey togydys.

- (5) HERE THIS TALE OVERLEPYTH A WHYLE UNTO SIR LAUNCELOTT, that whan he was com to the courte of kynge Arthure

1 C said that he 3 C\* wende vnto this had omitted in S 3-4 C for sir  
laūcelot du lake or for sire Tristram de lyones 5-6 C\* in despyte of vs alle he is  
departed from vs and maulgre oure hedes With this ansuer the curroure departed and  
came to Maledysaunt his lady and told alle 7 C had spedde 8 C her heed  
but not in C 13 C knyghte but not yet 18 C men of armes and  
anone they knowe whan (S when) 25 C renomme 26 C defoyled C  
of the S os the 28 W them to be C\* them that be 29 tyme not in C  
32-3 C Here leue we of a whyle of this tale and speke we of sire Launcelot du lake  
Capitulum Quintum That whan

than harde he telle of the yonge knyghte sir La Cote Male Tayle, how he slew the lyon and how he toke uppon hym the adventures of the blacke shylde, whyche was named at that tyme the hardyest adventure of the worlde.

'So God me save!' seyde sir Launcelot unto many of his felowys. 'Hit was shame to all the good noble knyghtes to suffir suche a yonge knyght to take so hyghe adventure on hym for his distruccion. For I woll that ye wyte,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'that this damesell Maledysaunte hath borne that shylde many a day for to seche the moste preved knyghtes. And that was she that sir Breunys Saunze Pité toke the shylde frome, and aftir sir Trystrames de Lyones rescowed that shylde frome hym and gaff hit to the damesell agayne, a lytyll afore that tyme that sir Trystrames faught with my newew Blamoure de Ga[n]ys for a quarell that was betwyxte the kynge of Irelande and hym.'

15  
191

Than many knyghtes were sory that sir La Cote Male Tayle was gone forthe to that adventure.

'Truly,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'I caste me to ryde aftir hym.'

20

And so within seven dayes sir Launcelot overtoke sir La Cote Male Tayle, and than he salewed hym and the damesell Maledysaunte. And whan sir Mordred saw Launcelot, than he leffte their felyship, and so sir Launcelot rode with hem all a day. And ever that damesell rebuked sir La Cote Male Tayle, and than sir Launcelot answerde for hym. Than she leffte of and rebuked sir Launcelot.

25

So thys meanetyme sir Trystramys sente by a damesell a lettir unto sir Launcelot, excusynge hym of the weddyng of Isod le Blaunche Maynes, and seyde in the lettir, as he was a trew knyght, he had never ado fleishly with Isode le Blaunche Maynys. And passyng curteysly and jantely sir Trystrames wrote unto sir Launcelot, ever besechyng hym to be hys good frende and unto La Beall Isod of Cornwayle, and that sir Launcelot wolde excuse hym if that ever he saw her. And within shorte tyme, by the grace of God, sir

30  
35

1 *ir not in C*      2-3 *C the aduenture of*      3 *C the whiche*      6 *good not in C*  
 7 *C take suche adventure*      11 *C saunce pyte*      12 *C from her and after*  
*Tristram*      15 *C Blamore de Ganys*      21-2 *C ouertook la*      25 *ir not in C*  
 30 *C Isoud le blaunche maynys*      32 *C curtoisly & gentily*      36-p. 468, 1  
*C god said sir Tristram that*

Trystramys seyde that he wolde speke with La Beall Isode and with hym ryght hastyly.

Than sir Launcelot departed frome the damesell and frome sir La Cote Male Tayle for to oversé that lettir and to wryte another lettir unto sir Trystram.

And in the meanewhyle sir La Cote Male Talorode with the damesel untill they cam to a castell that hyght Pendragon. And there were six knyghtes that stood afore hym and one of them profirde to fyght or to juste with hym.

- 10 And so sir La Cote Male Tayle smote hym over hys horse croupe. And than the fyve knyght[es] sette uppon hym all at onys with their spearys, and there they smote La Cote Male Tay[le] downe horse and man. And than they ded alyght suddeynly and sette their hondis uppon hym all at  
15 onys and toke hym presonere.

- And on the morne sir Launcelot arose and delyverde the damesell with lettirs unto sir Trystram, and than he toke hys way aftir sir La Cote Male Tayle. And by the way uppon a  
192<sup>r</sup> brydge there was a knyght that profirde sir Launcelot to  
20 juste, and sir Launcelot smote hym downe. And than they faught uppon foote a noble batayle togydirs and a myghty, and at the laste sir Launcelot smote hym downe grovelynge uppon hys hondys and hys kneys. And than that knyght yelded hym, and sir Launcelot resseyved hym fayre.

- 25 'Sir,' seyde the knyght, 'I requyre you telle me youre name, for mucche my harte yevith unto you.'

'Nay,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'as at thys tyme I woll nat telle you my name onles that ye telle me youre name.'

- 'Sertaynly,' seyde the knyght, 'my name ys sir Neroveus,  
30 that was made knyght of my lorde sir Launcelot du Lake.'

'A, sir Neroveus de Lyle!' seyde sir Launcelot, 'I am ryght glad that ye ar proved a good knyght, for now wyte you well my name ys sir Launcelot.'

- 35 'Alas!' seyde sir Neroveus, 'what have I done!' And therewithall he felle flatlynge to his feete and wolde have

5 C Tristram de lyones      8 that *not in C*      9 to fyght or *not in C*      C  
with la cote male tayle      13 ded *not in C*      15 C\* prysoner and soo ledde hym  
vnto the castel & kepte hym as prysoner (*probably a homoeoteleuton in W*)      25 C  
requyre the      28 C oules thenne that      29 C† Nerouens (*F Veroneus, Neroneus*)  
31 C A Nerouens      33 C Launcelot du lake      34 C Nerouens de lyle      35 C  
wold      S would



kyste them, but sir Launcelot wolde nat suffir hym. And than aythir made grete joy of other, and than sir Neroveus tolde sir Launcelot that he sholde nat go by the Castell of Pendragon, 'for there ys a lorde, a myghty knyght, and many myghty knyghtes with hym, and thys nyght I harde sey that they toke a knyght presonere that rode with a damesell, and they sey he ys a knyght of the Rounde Table.'

'A,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'that knyght ys my felow, and (6) hym shall I rescowe and borow, or ellis lose my lyff therefore.'

And therewithall he rode faste tyll he cam before the 10 Castell of Pendrag[on. And] anone therewithall there cam six knyghtes, and all [made hem redy] to sette uppon sir Launcelot at onys. Than sir [Launcelot feautryd his] speare and smote the formyst, that he br[ake his bak in sonder], and three of them smote hym and three fa[yled. And than sir 15 Launcelot] past thorow them, and lyghtly h[e torned in ageyne and smote] anothir knyght thorow the brest [and thorowoute the back] more than an elle, [and therewithall his speare brak. Soo than] all the remenaunte of the four k[nyghtes drewe their swerdes and lashed] at sir Launcelot, 20 and at every s[roke sir Launcelot bestowed so his] strokis 192<sup>v</sup> that at four strokis sundry they avoyded their sadyls passynge sore wounded, and furthwithal he rode hurlynge into the castell.

And anone the lorde of that castell which was called sir 25 Bryan de Les Ileß, which was a noble man and a grete enemy to kynge Arthure, so within a whyle he was armed and on horsebacke. And than they feautred their spearis and hurled togydirs so strongly that bothe their horsys russed to the erthe. And than they avoyded their sadyls and dressed 30 their shyldis and drew their swerdis and flowe togydirs as wood men, and there were many strokis a whyle.

At the laste sir Launcelot gaff sir Bryan such a buffette that he kneled uppon hys knees, and than sir Launcelot russed uppon hym with grete force and pulled of his helme. 35

- |   |                               |                                |              |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 C not lete hym                          | 2 C Nerouens                  | 6 C prysoner yesterday that    | 9 and        |
| borow not in C                            | C els I shalle lese           | 11-21 The bottom corner of the |              |
| leaf is torn in W                         | 18 C thorou oute              | 23 W he rorde he omitted in S  |              |
| 25 C the castel that was that tyme cleped | 26 S and grete                | 31 C flange to                 |              |
| gyders                                    | 32 C strokes yeven in a whyle | 33 C gaf to sir                | 35 C crashed |
| 35 C and with grete force he pulled       |                               |                                |              |

And whan<sup>s</sup> sir Bryan sy that he sholde be slayne he yelded hym and put hym in hys mercy and in hys grace.

Than sir Launcelot made hym to delyver all hys presoners that he had within hys castell, and therein sir Launcelot  
5 founde of kynge Arthurs knyghtes thirty knyghtes and forty ladyes. And so he delyverde hem, and than he rode his way.

And anone as sir La Cote Male Tayle was delyverde, he gate his horse and hys harneyse and hys damesell Male-dysaunte.

10 The meanewhyle sir Neroveus, that sir Launcelot had foughtyn withall before at the brydge, he sente a damesell aftir sir Launcelot to wete how [he] <ha>d spedde at the castell of Pendragon. And than they in the [castell mervey]led what knyght he was that was there when [sir Bryan  
15 and his] knyghtes delyverde all tho presoners.

'Syr, [have ye no mervei]le,' seyde the damesell, 'for the beste [knyght in this world] was here and ded thys jurnay, and wyte [ye wel,' she said, '<h>it was sir Launc]elot.'

Than was sir Bryan full glad, [and so was his lady and  
20 al]l hys knyghtes, that he sholde wyne [them. And whan the dame]sell and sir La Cote Male Tayle [understood that <h>it was s<i>r La]uncelot that had rydden with hem [in fel<y>ship, and that she reme]mberde her how she had  
193<sup>r</sup> rebuked hym and called hym cowarde, than she was passyng  
25 hevvy.

(7) So than they toke their horsis and rode forthe a greate pace aftir sir Launcelot, and within two myle they overtoke hym, and salewed hym and thanked hym. And anone the  
damesell cryed sir Launcelot mercy of hir evyll dede, and  
30 seyyng, 'for now I know ye ar the floure of all knyghthode of the worlde, and sir Trystram departe hit even betw[e]ne you. For God knowith, be my good wyll,' seyde the damesell, 'that I have sought you, my lorde sir Launcelot, and sir Trystrams longe, and now I thanke God I have mette with  
35 you. And onys at Camelot I mette with sir Trystrams, and

5-6 C of arthurs knyghtes thyrty and xl ladyes 7 sir not in C 10 C  
Neroveus 11-23 The bottom corner of the leaf is torn in W 13 C  
they within the 14 that was there not in C† 16 Syr not in C W seyde seyde  
20 C that suche a man shold 21 sir not in C 22-3 See note 24 C was  
she 26 greate not in C 30-2 C knowe the floure of alle knyghthode is  
departed euen bitwene sire Tristram and you 32 be my good wyll not in C

there he rescowed thys blacke shyld with the whyght honde holdyng a naked swerde that sir Brewnys Saunz Pit  had takyn frome me.'

'Now, fayre damesell,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'who tolde you my name?'

'Sir,' seyde she, 'there cam a damesel frome a knyght that ye fought withall at a brydge, and she tolde [me] that youre name was sir Launcelot du Lake.'

'Blame have she therefore,' seyde he, 'but her lord, sir Neroveus, had tolde hir. But, damesell,' seyde sir Launcelot, uppon thys covenante I woll ryde with you, so that ye wyll nat rebuke thys knyght sir La Cote Male Tayle no more, for he ys a good knyght, and I doute nat but he shall preve a noble man. And for hys sake and pit , that he sholde nat be destroyed, I folowed hym to succour hym in thys grete nede.'

'A, Jesu thanke you!' seyde the damesell, 'for now I woll sey unto you and to hym bothe, I rebuked hym never for none hate that I hated hym, but for grete love that I had to hym, for ever I supposed that he had bene to yonge and to tendur of ayge to take uppon hym thys aventure. And therefore be my wyll I wolde have dryvyn hym away for jelosy that I had of hys lyff. For hit may be no yonge knyghtes dede that shall enchyve thys adventure to the ende.'

'Perd !' seyde sir Launcelot, 'hit ys well seyde of you! And where ye ar called the Damesell Maledysaunt, I woll calle you the Damesell Byeau-Pansaunte.'

And so they rode forth togydirs a grete whyle unto they cam unto the contreye of Surluse, and there they founde a fayre vyllayge wyth a stronge brydge lyke a fortresse. And whan sir Launcelot and they were at the brydge there sterte forthe afore them of jantyllmen and yomen many that seyde,

'Fayre lordis! Ye may nat passe thys brydge and thys fortresse because of that blacke shyld that I se one of you beare, and therefore there shall nat passe but one of you at onys. Therefore chose you whych of you shall entir within thys brydge fyrst.'

1 C ther S there 2 C Bruyns saunce 7 C told me your 9 C she  
 thenne said 10 C Neroueus 14 C noble knyght 18 C no hate  
 20 of ayge not in C† C these aduentures 24 C Perdieu said sir Launucelot  
 24 of you not in C 25 26 C damoyssel 26 C Bien pensaun 27 togydirs  
 not in C 28 C came to the Bordoure of the country

Than sir Launcelot profird hymselfe firste to juste and entir within thys brydge.

'Sir,' seyde sir La Cote Male [Tayle], 'I besech you to lette me entir within thys fortresse. And if I may spede well  
5 I woll sende for you, and if hit so be that I be slayne, there hit goth. And if I be takyn presonere, than may you rescowe me.'

'Sir, I am loth that ye sholde passe this passage first,' seyde sir Launcelot.

10 'Sir,' seyde sir La Cote Male Tayle, 'I pray you lat me put my body in that adventure.'

'Now go youre way,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'and Jesu be your spede!'

So he entird anone, and there mette with hym two  
15 brethirne, the tone hyght sir Playne de Fors and that othir hyght sir Playne de Amoris. And anone they justed with La Cote Male Tayle, and sir La Cote Male Tayle smote downe sir Playne de Fors, and aftir he smote downe sir Playne de Amoris.

20 And than they dressed their shyldis and swerdys and bade sir La Cote Male Tayle alyght, and so he ded. And there was daysshynge and foynnyng with swerdis, and so they began to assayle othir full harde, and they gaff sir La Cote Male Tayle many grete woundis uppon hed and breste and  
25 uppon shuldurs. And as he mygh[t] ever amonge he gaff sad strokis agayne, and than the two brethirne traced and traversed for to be of both hondis of sir La Cote Male Tayle, but he by fyne forse and knyghtly proues gate hem afore hym. And whan he felte hym so wounded than he doubled  
30 hys strokis and gaffe them so many woundis that he felde hem to the erthe, and wolde have slayne them had they nat  
194<sup>r</sup> yelded them.

1 juste and *not in C†* 3 sir *not in C* 5 *C* yf it happened that 6 *C* And  
yf soo be that I am a prysoner taken thenne 8 Sir *not in C* 8-10 *C* I am  
lothe said sir launcelot to lete you passe this passage Syre said la cote 11 *C* this  
adventure 12-19 *W* (*sidenote*): How sir La Cote Male Tayle strake a-downe  
sir Playne de Fors and sir Playne de Amoris 15 *C* force 16 *P* amours (*o*  
*and r* obliterated in R) 16-17 *C* they mette with sir la cote 17 *C* and fyrste la cote  
18 *C* force 19 *C* amours 20 *C* dressid them to their 18, 21 sir *not in C*  
23-5 *C* assaile ful hard la cote male tayle and many grete woundes gaf hym vpon  
his heed and vpon his brest and vpon his sholders 27 *C\** tayle 29 *C*  
And thenne whan he felte hym self soo

And ryght so sir La Cote Male Tayle toke the beste horse that there was of them three, and so he rode forth hys way to the othir fortres and brydge. And there he mette with the thirde brother, hys name was sir Plenoryus, a full noble knyght, and there they justed togydirs, and aythir smote other dowhe, horse and man, to the erthe.

And than they avoyded their horsys and dressed their shyldis and swerdis, and than they gaff many sad strokis. And one whyle the one knyght was afore on the brydge, and another whyle the other. And thus they faught two owres <sup>10</sup> and more and never rested, and ever sir Launcelot and the damesell behylde them.

'Alas!' seyde the damesell, 'my knyght fyghttyth passynge sore and overlonge.'

'Now may ye se,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'that he ys a noble <sup>15</sup> knyght, for to considir hys firste batayle and his grevous woundis. And evyn forthwithall, so wounded as he ys, hit ys mervayle that he may endure thys longe batayle with that good knyght.'

Thys meanewhyle sir La Cote Male Tayle sanke ryght <sup>20</sup> (8) downe uppon the erthe, what forwounded and forbled he myght nat stonde. Than the tothir knyght had pyté off hym and seyde,

'Fayre knyght, dismay you not, for had ye bene freysshe whan ye mette with me as I was, I wote well that I coude nat <sup>25</sup> have endured you. And therefore, [for] youre noble dedys of armys, I shall shew to you kyndenes and jantilnes all that I may.'

And furthewithall thys noble knyght sir Plenoryus toke hym up in hys armys and ledde hym into hys towre. And <sup>30</sup> than he commaunded hym the wyne and made to serch hym and to stop hys bledynge woundys.

'Sir,' seyde sir La Cote Mal Tayle, 'withdraw you from me and hyghe you to yondir brydge agayne, for there woll mete with you another maner a knyght than ever <sup>35</sup> was I.'

4 C broder whoos name 7-8 C and drewe their swerdes and gaf 18 W thys longe thys longe 21 C what forbled 24 C fayr yonge knyghte 25-6 C I shold not haue endured so longe as ye haue done and 29 C Plenoryus 28-33 W (sidenote): How sir Plenoryus smote downe La Cote Male Tayle 31 P serche R sarche 35 a not in C

'Why,' seyde sir Plenoryus, 'ys there behynde ony mo of youre felyship?'

'Ye, sir, wete you well there ys a muche bettir knyght than I am.'

'What ys hys name?' seyde sir Plenoryus.

'Sir, ye shall nat know for me.'

194<sup>v</sup> 'Well,' seyde the knyght, 'he shall be encountird withall, whatsomever he be.'

And anone he herde a knyght calle that seyde,

10 'Sir Plenoryus, where arte thou? Othir thou muste delyver me that presoner that thou haste lad into thy towre, othir ellis com and do batayle with me!'

Than sir Plenoryus gate hys horse and cam, with a speare in hys honde, walopynge towarde sir Launcelot. And than  
15 they began to feauter theire spearys, and cam togydir as thundir, and smote aythir othir so myghtyly that their horsis felle downe undir them.

And than they avoyded their horsis and pulled oute their swerdis, and lyke too bullis they laysshed togydirs with grete  
20 strokis and foynys. But ever sir Launcelot recoverde grounde uppon hym, and sir Plenoryus traced to have gone aboute hym, but sir Launcelot wolde nat suffir that, but bare hym backer and backer tylle he cam nye hys towre gate. And than seyde sir Launcelot,

25 'I know you well for a good knyght, but wyte thou well thy lyff and deth ys in my honde, and therefore yelde the to me and thy presonere!'

But he answerde no worde, but strake myghtyly uppon sir Launcelotis helme, that the fyre sprange oute of hys yen.  
30 Than sir Launcelot doubeled his strokes so thicke, and smote at hym so myghtyly, that he made hym knele uppon his kneys. And therewithall sir Launcelot lepe uppon hym and pulled hym grovelynge downe.

Than sir Plenoryus yelded hym and hys towre and all his  
35 presoners at hys wylle. Than sir Launcelot receyved hym and toke hys trowthe.

1 sir *not in C* 1-3 C† is there another maner knyght behynde of your felauship  
ye said la cote male tayle ther is 6 C ye shalle not knowe for me said la cote  
male tayle 9 C Thenne sir Plenorius herd 23 C nythe 25 C knowe the  
29 W that the fyre sprange oute of hys helme that the fyre sprange oute of hys  
yen Ceyen 32 C lepte 34 W and hys towre and hys towre

And than he rode to the tothir brydge, and there sir Launcelot justed with othir three of hys brethirn, that one hyght sir Pyllounes, and the othir hyght sir Pellogres, and the thirde hyght sir Pelaundris. And first uppon horsebacke sir Launcelot smote hem doune, and aftirwarde he bete hem on foote and made them to yelde them unto hym.

And than he returned ayen unto sir Pleonoryus, and there he founde in hys preson kynge Carados of Scotlonde and many other knyghtes, and all they were delyverde.

195<sup>r</sup>

And than sir La Cote Male Tale cam to sir Launcelot, and than sir Launcelot wolde have gyvyn hym all thys fortesse and the brydges.

'Nay, sir,' seyde La Cote Male Tayle, 'I woll nat have sir Plenoryus lyvelode. With that he wyll graunte you, my lorde sir Launcelot, to com unto kynge Arthurs house and to be hys knyght and all hys brethirne, I woll pray you, my lorde, to latte hym have hys lyvelode.'

'I woll well,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'wyth thys, that [he] woll com to the courte of kyng Arthure and bycom hys man, and hys brethern fyve. And as for you, sir Plenoryus, I woll undirtake,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'at the nexte feste, so there be a place voyde, that ye shall be knyght of the Rounde Table.'

'Sir,' seyde sir Plenoryus, 'at the nexte feste of Pentecoste I woll be at kynge Arthurs courte, and at that tyme I woll be gydded and ruled as kynge Arthure and ye woll have me.'

Than sir Launcelot and sir La Cote Male Tayle reposed them there untill they were hole of hir woundis, and there they had myry chere and good reste and many good gamys, and there were many fayre ladyes.

And so in the meanewhyle cam sir Kay the Senesciall and sir Brandiles, and anone they felyshipped with them, and so within ten dayes they departed, the knyghtes of kynge Arthurs courte, from thes fortres.

And as sir Launcelot cam by the Castell of Pendragon,

2-4 C the one hyght Pillounes and the other hyght Pellogris and the thyrdde sir Pellandris 7 ayen *not in C* 11-12 C alle these fortresses and these brydges  
13 C Nay said 15 C Arthurs courte and 18-19 W that ye woll  
21 C Lauucelot S Launcelot 25 kynge *not in C* 28 C vnto the tyme  
that sire la cote male tayle was hole of his woundes (that *omitted in S*) 31-2 C  
seneschal and sire Brandyles 33-4 C tho knyghtes of Arthurs

there he put sir Bryan de Lese Iles from his londes, for because he wolde never be withholde with kynge Arthur.

And all the castell of Pendragon and all the londis thereof he gaff to sir La Cote Male Tayle. And than sir Launcelot sente for sir Neroveus that he made onys knyght, and he made hym to have all the rule of that castell and of that contrey undir sir La Cote Male Tayle. And so they rode unto kynge Arthurs courte all hole togydirs.

And at Pentecoste nexte folowyng there was sir Plenoryus, and sir La Cote Male Tayle was called otherwyse be ryght sir Brewne le Noyre. And bothe they were made knyghtes of the Rounde Table, and grete londis kynge Arthure gaff them.

195<sup>v</sup> And there sir Breune le Noyre wedded that damesell Maledysaunte, and aftir she was called the lady Byeaue-Vyvante. But ever aftir for the more party he was called La Cote Male Tayle, and he preved a passyng noble knyght and a myghty, and many worshipfull dedys he ded aftir in hys lyff.

20 And sir Plenoryus preved a good knyght and was full of proues, and all the dayes of theyre lyff for the moste party they awayted uppon sir Launcelot.

And sir Plenoryus brethirne were ever knyghtes of kynge Arthurs, and also, as the Freynshe booke makith mencion, 25 sir La Cote Male Tayle revenged the deth of hys fadir.

1-2 C for cause	3 C that castel	5 C Neroneus	S Neroueus	7 C
mayle tayle	8 kynge <i>not in C</i>	C al holy	10 was <i>not in C</i>	11 C
Breunes le noyre	bothe maade	14 C there Breune	14-15 C damoyzell	
Maledysaunt	15-16 C called Beau viuante	18 C and myghty	20 C	
a noble knyght and ful	24 C Arthur	25 C auengyd his faders dethe		



## IV

### TRISTRAM'S MADNESS AND EXILE

[*Winchester MS.*, ff. 195<sup>v</sup>–209<sup>v</sup>;  
*Caxton, Book IX, chs. 10–25*]



## CAXTON'S RUBRICS

10. How la Bele Isoude sente letters to syr Trystram by hir mayde Brangwayn, and of dyvers adventures of syr Trystram.
11. How syr Tristram mette with sir Lamerok de Gales, and how they faught and after accorded never to fyght togyders.
12. How syr Palomydes folowed the questyng beest and smote doun syr Trystram and syr Lamerock wyth one spere.
- 13-14.\* How syr Lamerok mette wyth syr Melleagaunce and faught togydre for the beaulté of dame Guenever.
15. How syr Kaye mette wyth syr Trystram, and after of the shame spoken of the knyghtes of Cornewayl, and how they justed.
16. How kyng Arthur was brought into the Forest Peryllous, and how syr Trystram saved his lyf.
17. How syr Trystram came to La Beale Isoude, and how Kehydious began to love Bele Isoude, and of a letter that Tristram fonde.
18. How syr Tristram departed fro Tyntagyl, and how he sorowed and was so longe in a forest tyl he was out of his mynde.
19. How syr Trystram sowsed Dagonet in a welle, and how Palamydes sente a damoyssel to seche Trystram, and how Palamydes mette wyth kyng Mark.
20. How it was noysed how sir Trystram was dede, and how La Beale Isoude wolde have slayn hyrself.
21. How kyng Mark fonde syr Trystram naked and made hym to be borne home to Tyntagyl, and how he was there knowen by a brachet.
22. How kyng Marke by th'avys of his counceyl bannysshed syr Trystram oute of Cornewayl the terme of ten yere.
23. How a damoyssel sought helpe to helpe sir Launcelot ayenst thirty knyghtes, and how syr Trystram faught with them.
24. How syr Trystram and syr Launcelot came to a lodgyng† where they must juste wyth two knyghtes.
25. How syr Trystram justed wyth syr Kaye and sir Sagramor le Desyrous, and how syr Gawayn torned syr Trystram fro Morgan le Fay.
26. How syr Trystram and syr Gauwayn rode to have foughten ayenst the thirty knyghtes, but they durst not come oute.

\* *xiii omitted in C*

† *S lodgyng*

27. How damoyse Brangwayn fonde Trystram slepyng by a welle, and how she delyverd letters to hym fro Bele Isoude.
28. How syr Trystram had a falle of syr Palomydes, and how Launcelot overthrewe two knyghtes.
29. How syr Launcelot justed with Palomydes and overthrewe hym, and after he was assayed with twelve knyghtes.

NOW leve we here sir Launcelot du Lake and sir La (10),  
 Cote Male Tayle, and turne we unto sir Trystram  
 de Lyones that was in Bretayne, that whan La Beall Isode  
 undirstood that he was wedded she sente to hym by hir  
 maydyn, dame Brangwayn, pyteuous lettirs as coude be 5  
 thought and made, and hir conclusyon was thus, that if hit  
 pleased sir Trystram, to com to hir courte and brynge with  
 hym Isode le Blaunche Maynys; and they shulde be kepte  
 als well as herself.

Than sir Trystram called unto hym sir Keyhydy(ns) and 10  
 asked hym whether he wolde go with hym into Cornwayle  
 secretly. He answerde hym and seyde that he was redy at  
 all tymes. And than he lete ordayne prevaile a lityll  
 vessel, and therein they sayled, sir Trystram, sir Keyhydins,  
 and dame Brangwayne and Governayle, sir Trystrams 15  
 squyar.

So whan they were in the see a contraryous wynde blew  
 them unto the costis of North Walis, ny the Foreyste  
 Perelus. Than seyde sir Trystrames,

'Here shall ye abyde me thes ten dayes, and Governayle, 20  
 my squyer, with you. And if so be I com nat agayne by that  
 day, take the nexte way into Cornwayle, for in thys foreyste  
 ar many strange adventures, as I have harde sey, and som  
 of hem I caste to preve or that I departe. And whan I may  
 I shall hyghe me aftir you.'

Than sir Trystrams and sir Keyhydins toke their horsis 25  
 and departed frome theire felyship. And so they rode within  
 that foreyste a myle and more, and at the laste sir Trystrams  
 saw before them a lykely knyght syttyng armed by  
 a well. And a stronge myghty horse stood passyng nyghe 30  
 hym ityed to an oke, and a man hovyng and rydynge by  
 hym, ledynge an horse lode with spearys. And thys knyght  
 that sate at the well semyd by hys countenance to be

1 sir Launcelot du Lake and *not in C* 3 *C* Bretayne whanne la beale Isoud  
 5 dame *not in C* 6 thus *not in C* *C* and hit 7 *C\** that he wold come  
 9 *C* she her self 10 *W* Kehydy<sup>9</sup> 12 and seyde *not in C†* 14 *C* they  
 wente syr Tristram kehidius 18 *C* on the costes 18-19 *C†* castel peryllous  
*F* (*MS. B.N. fr. 103 f. 108<sup>r</sup> col. 2*): près de la forest des Darnantes 21 *W* a  
 a geyne 24 *C* caste me to preue or I 29 *C* armed syttyng 30 stood  
*not in C* 31 *C* teyed 32 *C* lade with 33 *C* atte welle

passyng hevy. Than sir Trystramys rode nere hym and seyde,

'Fayre knyght! Why sitte you so droupynge? Ye seme to be a knyghte arraunte by youre armys and harneys, and therefore dresse you to juste with one of us other with bothel'

Therewithall that knyght made no wordes, but toke hys shyld and buckeled hit aboute hys necke, and lyghtly he toke hys horse and lepte uppon hym, and than he toke a grete speare of hys squyre and departed hys way a furlonge.

Then sir Kehydyns asked leve of sir Trystrames to juste firste.

'Sir, do your beste!' seyde sir Trystrames.

So they mette togydirs, and there sir Kehydi<sup>(ns)</sup> had a falle and was sore wounded an hyghe abovyn the pappis. Than sir Trystramys seyde,

'Knyght that ys well justed, now make you redy unto me!'

'Sir, I am redy,' seyde the knyght.

And anone he toke a grete speare and encountird with sir Trystramys. And there by fortune and by grete force that knyght smote downe sir Trystramys frome hys horse, and had a grete falle. Than sir Trystramys was sore ashamed, and lyghtly he avoyded hys horse and put hys shyld afore hys shulder and drew hys swerde, and than sir Trystramys requyred that knyght of hys knyghthode to alyghte uppon foote and fyght with hym.

'I woll well,' seyde the knyght.

And so he alyght uppon foote and avoyded hys horse and kest hys shyld uppon hys shulder and drew oute hys swerde, and there they fought a longe batayle togydirs, nyghe two owrys.

Than sir Trystramys seyde,

'Fayre knyght, holde thyne honde a lytyll whyle and telle me of whens thou arte and what is thy name.'

'As for that,' seyde the knyght, 'I woll be avysed; but and ye woll telle me youre name, peradventure I woll telle you myne.'

5 *W* of of  
knyght took a  
not in *C*†

14 *W* Kehydi<sup>9</sup>  
30 *C* ful nyghe

18 Sir not in *C*

33 a lytyll whyle not in *C*†

19 *C* And thenne that  
20 by fortune and

'Now, fayre knyght,' he seyde, 'my name ys sir Trystram (11) de Lyones.'

'Sir, and my name ys sir Lamerok de Galys.'

'A, sir Lamerok!' seyde sir Trystram, 'well be we mette! And bethynke the now of the despyte thou dedist me of the sendynge of the horne unto kynge Markis courte, to the entente to have slayne or dishonourde my lady, quene La Beall Isode. And therefore wyte thou well,' seyde sir Trystramys, 'the tone of us two shall dy or we departe.'

'Sir,' seyde sir Lamerok, 'that tyme that we were togydys in the Ile of Servage ye promysed me bettir frendship.'

So sir Trystramys wolde make no lenger delayes, but laysshed at sir Lamerok, and thus they faught longe tylle aythir were wery of other. Than sir Trystrams seyde unto sir Lamerak,

'In all my lyff mette I never with such a knyght that was so bygge and so well-brethed. Therefore,' sayde sir Trystramys, 'hit were pité that ony of us bothe sholde here be myscheved.'

'Sir,' seyde sir Lamerok, 'for youre renowne and your name I woll that ye have the worship, and therefore I woll yelde me unto you.' And therewith he toke the poynte of hys swerde in hys honde to yelde hym.

'Nay,' seyde sir Trystrames, 'ye shall nat do so, for well I know youre profirs (are) more of your jantilnes than for ony feare or drede ye have of me.'

And therewithall sir Trystramys profferde hym hys swerde and seyde,

'Sir Lamerak, as an overcom knyght I yelde me to you as a man of moste noble proues that I ever mette!'

'Nay,' seyde sir Lamerok, 'I woll do you jantylnes: I requyre you, lat us be sworne togydys that never none of us shall aftir thys day have ado with other.'

And therewithall sir Trystrames and sir Lamerak sware

3 C Syre said the other knyght and my name is sir lamorak de galys 10-11 C Lamerak remembre that we were to gyders in the yle of seruage and at that tyme ye promysed me grete frendship 14-24 W (sidenote): Here sir Trystrams and sir Lamerak fawght tyll they were wery bothe and so they lefte on evyn honde and were swore togydir 17 C brethed as ye be 19-20 C renomme and name 20 C worship of this bataille and 22 in hys honde not in C† 24 C†, W† and more 24-5 C† for my fere 29 C of the most 29 C mette with alle

that never none of hem sholde fyght agaynste othir, for well nother for woo.

(12) And thys meanewhyle com sir Palomydes, the good knyght,  
 197<sup>r</sup> folowyng the questyng beste that had in shap lyke a serpentis  
 5 hede and a body lyke a lybud, buttocked lyke a lyon and  
 footed lyke an harte. And in hys body there was such a  
 noyse as hit had bene twenty couple of houndys questyng;  
 and suche noyse that beste made wheresomever he wente.  
 And thys beste evermore sir Palomydes folowed, for hit was  
 10 called hys queste.

And ryght so as he folowed this beste, hit cam by sir  
 Trystram, and sone aftir cam sir Palomydes. And to breff  
 thys mater, he smote downe sir Trystramys and sir Lamerok  
 bothe with one speare, and so he departed aftir the Beste  
 15 Glatysaunte (that was called the Questyng Beste), where-  
 fore thes two knyghtes were passyng wrothe that sir  
 Palomydes wold nat fyght with hem on foote.

Here men may undirstonde that bene men of worshyp  
 that man was never fourmed that all tymes myght attayne,  
 20 but somtyme he was put to the worse by malefortune and  
 at som tyme the wayker knyght put the bygger knyght to a  
 rebuke.

Than sir Trystrams and sir Lamerok gate sir Kayhydins  
 uppon a shylde betwyxte them bothe and led hym to a fosters  
 25 lodge. And there they gaff hym in charge to kepe hym well,  
 and with hym they abode three dayes.

Than thes two knyghtes toke their horsys and at a crosse  
 they departed. And than seyde sir Trystramys to sir  
 Lamerak,

30 'I requyre you, if ye hap to mete with sir Palomydes, say  
 to hym that he shall fynde me at the same well there we  
 mette tofore, and there I, sir Trystramys, shall preve  
 whether he be bettir knyght than I.'

And so ayther departed frome othir a sondry way, and  
 35 sir Trystramys rode nyghe thereas was sir Keyhydins, and

1-2 C nor for wele nor for woo 5 C a lybard buttocks lyke 7 C† ben  
 the noyse of thyrtyt couple F (MS. B.N. fr. 103f. 109<sup>v</sup> col. 2): comment se vingt  
 brachés glatissent devant elle 12 C cam Palamydes 17 C on foote with  
 hem 18 C ben of 19 C that he was 19-20 C myght stande but  
 21 C putte the better knyghte 27 C at the crosse 30-1 C say hym 31-2 C  
 atte same well there I mette hym and



sir Lamerak rode untill he cam to a chapell, and there he put hys horse unto pastoure.

And anone there cam sir Mellyagaunce that was kynge Bagdemagus sonne, and he there put hys horse to pasture, and was nat ware of sir Lamerok. And than thys knyght 5  
sir Mellyagaunce made hys mone of the love that he had to quene Gwenyver, and there he made a wofull complaynte. 197<sup>v</sup>

All thys harde sir Lamerak, and on the morne sir Lamerak toke hys horse and rode unto the foreyste, and there he mette with two knyghtes hovyng undir the woodshaw. 10

'Fayre kyghtes!' seyde sir Lamerok, 'what do ye, hovyng here and wacchyng? And yff ye be knyghtes arraunte that wyll juste, lo I am redy!'

'Nay, sir knyght,' they seyde, 'we abyde nat here for to juste with you, but we lye in a wayte uppon a knyght that 15  
slew oure brothir.'

'What knyght was that,' seyde sir Lamerak, 'that ye wolde mete withall?'

'Sir,' they seyde, 'hit ys sir Launcelot that we woll slee and he com thys way.' 20

'Ye take uppon you a grete charge,' seyde sir Lamerake, 'for sir Launcelot ys a noble proved knyght.'

'As for that, sir, we doute nat, for there ys none of us but we ar good inowghe for hym.'

'I woll nat beleve that,' seyde sir Lamerok, 'for I harde 25  
never yet of no knyght dayes of oure lyff but sir Launcelot was to bygge for hym.'

Ryght as they talked sir Lamerake was ware how sir (13)  
Launcelot com rydyng streyte towarde them. Than sir Lamerak salewed hym and he hym agayne, and than sir 30  
Lamerak asked sir Launcelot if there were onythyng that he myght do for hym in thys marchys.

'Nay,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'nat at thys tyme, I thanke you.'

Than ayther departed frome other, and sir Lamerake rode ayen thereas he lefte the two knyghtes, and than he founde 35  
them hydde in the leved woode.

7 C Gueneuer 14 C they said not soo we 15 C lye here in a wayte of a  
17-18 C\* wold fayne mete 19-20 C\* that slewe oure broder And yf euer we  
maye mete with hym he shal not escape but we shalle slee hym 23 sir not  
in C 26 C the dayes of my lyf 28 C Ryyght soo as they stode talkyng  
thus syre

'Fye on you!' seyde sir Lamerak, 'false cowardis! That pité and shame hit ys that ony of you sholde take the hyghe Order of Knyghthode!'

So sir Lamerok departed fro them, and within a whyle he  
 5 mette with sir Mellyagaunce. And than sir Lamerok asked hym why he loved quene Gwenyver as he ded, 'for I was nat far frome you whan ye made youre complaynte by the chapell.'

'Ded ye so?' seyde sir Mellyagaunce. 'Than woll I abyde  
 198<sup>r</sup> 10 by hit. I love quene Gwenyver!'

'What woll ye with hit?'

'I woll preve and make hit good that she ys the fayryste lady and moste of beauté in the worlde.'

'As to that,' seyde sir Lamerok, 'I say nay thereto, for  
 15 quene Morgause of Orkeney, modir unto sir Gawayne, for she ys the fayryst lady that beryth the lyff.'

'That ys nat so,' seyde sir Mellyagaunce, 'and that woll I preve with my hondis!'

'Wylle ye so?' seyde sir Lamerok. 'And in a bettir quarell  
 20 kepe I nat to fyght.'

So they departed [ayther] frome othir in grete wrathe, and than they com rydyng togydirs as hit had bene thundir, and aythir smote other so sore that their horsis felle backwarde to the erthe. And than they avoyded their horsys and dressed  
 25 their shyldis and drew their swerdis, and than they hurteled togydirs as wylde borys, and thus they fought a grete whyle. For sir Mellyagaunce was a good man and of grete myght, but sir Lamerok was harde byg for hym and put hym all-ways abacke, but aythir had wounded othir sore.

30 And as they stood thus fyghtyng, by fortune com sir Launcelot and sir Bleoberys, and than sir Launcelot rode betwyxte them and asked them for what cause they fought so togydirs, 'and ye ar bothe of the courte of kynge Arthure.'

(14) 'Sir,' seyde sir Mellyagaunce, 'I shall telle you for what  
 35 cause we do thys batayle. I praysed my lady, quene Gwenyvere, and seyde she was the fayryste lady of the worlde, and sir

1 That *not in C*      6 *C* Gueneuer      10 *C* gueneuer      12 hit *not in C*  
 15-16 *C* moder to sire Gawayne and his moder† is the fayrest quene and lady  
 18 *C* handes vpon thy body      21 *C\** departed eyther from      33 *C* bothe  
 knyghtes of kynge Arthur

Lamerok seyde nay thereto, for he seyde quene Morgause of Orkeney was fayrar than she and more of beauté.'

'A!' seyde sir Launcelot, 'sir Lamerak, why sayst thou so? Hit ys nat thy parte to dispraise thy prynces that thou arte undir obeysaunce and we all.' And therewithall sir Launcelot alyght on foote. 'And therefore make the redy, for I woll preve uppon the that quene Guenever ys the fayryst lady and moste of bounté in the worlde.'

'Sir,' seyde sir Lamerok, 'I am lothe to have ado with you in thys quarrell, for every man thynkith hys owne lady fayryste, and thoughe I prayse the lady that I love moste, ye sholde nat be wrothe. For thoughe my lady quene Gwenyver be fayryst in youre eye, wyte you well quene Morgause of Orkeney ys fayryst in myne eye, and so every knyght thynkith his owne lady fayryste. And wyte you well, sir, ye ar the man in the worlde excepte sir Trystramys that I am moste lothyst to have ado withall, but and ye woll nedys have ado with me, I shall endure you as long as I may.'

Than spake sir Bleoberys and seyde,

'My lorde, sir Launcelot, I wyste you never so mysseadvysed as ye be at thys tyme, for sir Lamerok seyth to you but reson and knyghtly. For I warne you, I have a lady, and methynkith that she ys the fayryst lady of the worlde. Were thys a grete reson that ye sholde be wrothe with me for such langage? And well ye wote that sir Lamerak ys a noble knyght as I know ony lyvyng, and he hath oughte you and all us ever good wyll. Therefore I pray you, be fryndis!'

Than sir Launcelot seyde,

'Sir, I pray you, forgyve me myne offence and evyll wyll, and if I was mysseadvysed I woll make amendis.'

'Sir,' seyde sir Lamerok, 'the amendis ys sone made betwyxte you and me.'

And so sir Launcelot and sir Bleoberys departed, and sir Lamerok and sir Mellyagaunce toke their horsis and aythir departed frome othir.

3 C A syre Lamerak 5-6 C vnder there obeysaunce dn† we alle and there with he alyghte on foote and sayd for this quarel make the 13 C Gueneuer  
17-18 C nedes fyghte with me 21 C ye are now For 21 to not in C  
25-6 C is as noble knyght as I knowe and he 27 all not in C 28 C sayd  
vnto sir lamerak 29 offence and not in C† 30 C will amende hit 34 C  
syr Mellyagaunce and sir Lamerak

And within a while cam kyng Arthure and mette with sir Lamerok and justed with hym, and there he smote downe sir Lamerok and wounded hym sore with a speare. And so he rode frome hym, wherefore sir Lamerok was wroth that  
 5 he wolde nat fyght with hym on foote, howbehit that sir Lamerok knew nat kynge Arthure.

- (15) Now levith of thys tale and spekith of sir Trystramys, that as he rode he mette with sir Kay the Senescyall, and there sir Kay asked sir Trystramys of what contrey  
 10 he was. He answerde and seyde he was of the contrey of Cornwaile.

'Hit may well be,' seyde sir Kay, 'for as yet harde I never  
 199<sup>r</sup> that evir good knyght com oute of Cornwayle.'

'That ys well spokyn,' seyde sir Trystram, 'but and hit  
 15 please you to telle me your name, I pray you.'

'Sir, wyte you well that my name ys sir Kay the Senesciall.'

'A, sir, ys that youre name?' seyde sir Trystramys. 'Now wyte you well that ye ar named the shamefullst  
 20 knyght of your tunge that now ys lyvyng. Howbehit ye ar called a good knyght, but ye ar called unfortunate and passyng overthwart of youre tunge.'

And thus they rode togydirs tyll they cam to a brydge, and there was a knyght that wolde nat latte them passe tyll  
 25 one of them justed with hym. And so that knyght justed with sir Kay, and there he gaff sir Kay a falle, and hys name was sir Tor, sir Lamerokes halff-brothir.

And than they two rode to their lodgyng, and there they founde sir Braundiles, and sir Tor cam thydir anone aftr. And as they sate at hir souper, thes four knyghtes, three of  
 30 them spake all the shame by Cornysh knyghtes that coude be seyde. Sir Trystramys harde all that they seyde, and seyde but lytyll, but he thought the more. But at that tyme he discoverde nat hys name.

And uppon the morne sir Trystrams toke hys horse and  
 35 abode them uppon their way. And there sir Brandiles

7 C Now leue we of this tale and speke we of 10 C ansuerd that he 14 C  
 is euyl spoken 14 C bnt S but 15 C I requyre yon (S you) 16 C  
 well said sire kay that C seneschal 17 A sir *not in C* 20 C knyght  
 S knyght 23 that *not in C* 25 C there that knyght gaf C falle his  
 29 hir *not in C* C knyghtes S knyghtes 30 C *not in C* 30-1 that  
 coude be seyde *not in C* 31-2 C and he sayd

p[ro]firde to juste with sir Trystram, and there sir Trystram smote hym downe, horse and all, to the erthe.

Than sir Tor le Fyze de Vaysshoure, he encountird with sir Trystram, and there sir Trystram smote hym downe. And than he rode hys way and sir Kay folowed hym, but he wolde none of hys felyship. Than sir Brandiles com to sir Kay and seyde,

'I wolde wyte fayne what ys that knyghtes name.'

'Com one with me,' seyde sir Kay, 'and we shall pray hym to telle us hys name.'

So they rode togydys tyll they cam nyghe hym, and than they were ware where he sate by a welle and had put of hys helme to drynke at the welle. And whan that he saw them com he laced on hys helme lyghtly and toke hys horse to profir hem to juste.

'Nay!' seyde sir Brandyles, 'we justed late inowe with you, but we com nat in that entente, but we requyre you of knyghthod to telle us youre name.'

'My fayre lordys, sitthyn that hit ys youre [desyre], and now for to please you ye shall wyte that my name ys sir Trystram de Lyones, nevew unto kyng Mark of Cornwayle.'

'In goode tyme,' seyde sir Brandiles, 'and well be ye foundyn! And wyte you well that we be ryght glad that we have founde you, and we be of a felyship that wolde be ryght glad of youre company, for ye ar the knyght in the worlde that the felyship of the Rounde Table desyryth moste to have the company off.'

'God thank them all,' seyde sir Trystram, 'of hir grete goodnes, but as yet I fele well that I am not able to be of their felyship, for I was never yet of such dedys of worthynes to be in the companye of such a felyship.'

'A,' seyde sir Kay, 'and ye be sir Trystrams, ye ar the man called now moste of proues excepte sir Launcelot, for he beryth nat the lyff crystynde nother hethynde that canne fynde such anothir knyght, to speke of hys proues and of his

3 C fyse de vayshoure he not in C 6 C wold not of 9 C Come on with  
13 that not in C 17 C But for this we come to requyre 19 C fayre knyghtes  
20 now for not in C 27 C the noble felauship C mooste desyryth  
29 all not in C 30 C am vnabyll to 33 C Tristram (S Trystram) de lyones  
34 C launcelot du lake 35 C crysten ne hethen

hondis and hys trouthe withall. For yet cowde there never creature sey hym dishonoure and make hit good.'

Thus they talked a grete whyle, and than they departed ayther frome other such wayes as hem semed beste.

- (16) 5 Now shall ye here what was the cause that kyng Arthure cam into the Foreyste Perelous, that was in North Walis, by the meanys of a lady. Her name was Aunowre, and thys lady cam to kynge Arthure at Cardyeff, and she by fayre promyses and fayre behestis made kynge Arthure to ryde  
10 with her into that foreyste Perelous. And she was a grete sorseres, and many dayes she had loved kynge Arthure, and bycause she wolde have had hym to lye by her she cam into that contrey.

So whan the kynge was gone with hir, many of hys  
15 knyghtes folowed aftir hym whan they myste hym, as sir Launcelot, sir Brandiles, and many other.

- 200<sup>r</sup> And whan she had brought hym to hir towre she desired hym to ly by her, and than the kynge remembird hym of hy[s] lady and wolde nat for no crauffte that she cowde do.  
20 Than every day she wolde make hym ryde into that foreyste with <hyr> owne knyghtes to the entente to have had hym slayne; for whan thys lady Aunowre saw that she myght nat have hym at her wylle, than she laboured by false meanys to have destroyed kynge Arthure and slayne hym.

- 25 Than the Lady of the Lake, that was allwayes fryndely to kynge Arthure, she undirstood by hir suttyl craufftes that kynge Arthure was lykely to be destroyed. And therefore thys Lady of the Lake, that hyght Nynyve, she cam into that foreyste to seke aftir sir Launcelot du Lake othir ellis sir  
30 Trystramys for to helpe kynge Arthure, for as that same day she knew well that kynge Arthur sholde be slayne onles that he had helpe of one of these two knyghtes.

- And thus <as> she rode uppon a downe she mette with sir Trystram, and anone as she saw hym she knew hym and seyde,  
35 A, my lorde, sir Trystram, well be ye mette, and blyssed

6 C forest perillous	7 C Annowre	8 C Cardyf	9 C promyse	12 had
not in C	15 C after kynge arthur whan	16 sir not in C	19 C	
not lye by her for	21 W hys	C his	C had kynge arthur	27 C
was lyke to	28 C Nyneue	29 C lake or sire	30-1 C day this	
lady of the lake knewe	33 C rode vp and donne (S <del>h</del> oune)	tyl she	34 and	
seyde not in C	35 C Tristram she said well be			

be the tyme that I have mette with you, for the same day and within thys [two] owrys shall be done the dolefullyst dede that ever was done in thys londe.'

'A, fayre damesell,' seyde sir Trystramys, 'may I amende hit?'

'Yee, sir, therefore comyth on with me in all the haste ye may, for ye shall se the moste worshipfullyst knyght in the worlde harde bestadde.'

Than seyde sir Trystramys, 'I am redy lo to helpe you and suche a noble man as ye sey he ys.' 10

'Sir, hit ys nother better ne worse,' seyde the damesell, 'but the noble kynge Arthure hymself.'

'God deffende,' seyde sir Trystramys, 'that ever he shulde be in such distresse!'

Than they rode togydirs a grete pace untill they cam to a lityll turret in a castell, and undirnethe that castel they saw a knyght stondynge uppon foote fyghtyng with two knyghtes. And so sir Trystramys behelde them. And at the laste thes two knyghtes smote downe that one knyght, and one of hem unlaced hys helme, and the lady Aunowre gate kynge 200<sup>v</sup> 20 Arthurs swerde in her honde to have strykyn of his hede.

And therewithall com sir Trystramys as faste as he myght, and seyyng, 'Traytours! Leve that knyght anone!' And so sir Trystrams smote the tone of hem thorow the body that he felle dede, and than he russhed to the othir and smote hys 25 backe in sundir.

And in the meanewhyle the Lady of the Lake cryed to kyng Arthur, 'Lat nat that false lady ascape!'

Than kynge Arthur overtoke hir and with the same swerd he smote of her hede. And the Lady of the Lake toke up 30 hir hede and hynged hit at hir sadill-bowe by the heyre.

1 C this same 2-3 C the foulest dede F (MS. B.N. fr. 334 f. 114<sup>v</sup> col. 1): que chevalerie demourast en joye qui pour la mort d'un homme sera huy en dolour  
4 C O fair 6 C Come on with me she said and that in alle the haste 9 lo  
not in C 9-11 C helpe suche a noble man he is neither better 11-12 C said  
the lady of the lake but 19 C doune the one C and that one 20 C\*  
helm to haue slayne hym And the lady Annoure 21 W have haue  
22-28 W (sidenote): How sir Trystrams rescowed kyng Arthur fro the lady  
Aunowre 22-4 C Tristram with alle his myghte cryenge Traytresse Trai-  
tresse leue that And anone there sire Tristram smote the one of the knyghtes  
thorou 25 C rasshed 31 C henge it vp by the heyre of her sadell  
bowe

And than sir Trystramys horsed the kynge agayne and rode forth with hym, but he charged the Lady of the Lake nat to discover hys name as at that tyme. So whan the kynge was horsed he thanked hartely sir Trystramys and desired  
5 to wyte hys name, but he wolde nat telle hym none other but that he was a poure knyght adventures. And so he bare kynge Arthure 'felyship' tyll he mette with som of hys knyghtes.

And so within a whyle he mette with sir Ector de Marys, and he knew nat kynge Arthur nother yet sir Trystram, and  
10 he desired to juste with one of them. Than sir Trystrames rode unto sir Ector and smote hym frome hys horse, and whan he had done so he cam agayne to [the] kynge and seyde,  
'My lord, yondir ys one of youre knyghtes, he may beare you felyshyp. And anothir day, <by> that dede that I have  
15 done for you, I truste to God ye shall undirstonde that I wolde do you servyse.'

'Alas!' seyde kynge Arthure, 'lat me wyte what ye ar.'

'Nat at thys tyme,' seyde sir Trystramys. So he departed and lefte kynge Arthur and sir Ector togydirs.

(17) 20 And than at a day sette sir Trystrams and sir Lamerok mette at a welle, and than they toke sir Keyhydys at the  
201<sup>r</sup> fosters house, and so they rode with hym to [the] ship where they lefte dame Brangwayne and Governayle. And so they sayled into Cornuayle all hole togydirs.

25 And by assente and by enformacion of dame Brangwayne, whan they were loded they rode unto sir Dynas the Senesciall, a trusty frynde of sir Trystramys, and so sir Dynas and dame Brangwayne rode to the courte of kynge Marke and tolde the quene La Beall Isode that sir Trys-  
30 tramys was nyghe hir in the contrey. Than for verry pure joy La Beall Isode sowned, and whan she myght speke she seyde,

'Jantyll senesciall, helpe that I myght speke with hym, othir my harte woll braste!'

35 Than sir Dynas and dame Brangwayne brought sir

1 C horsed kyng Arthur and	5 none other <i>not in C</i>	7 C* Arthur
felauship tyl	F (MS. B.N. fr. 334 f. 115 <sup>r</sup> col. 1): je vous feray compaignie	
jusques a tant que vous aiez trouvé aucun de vos chevaliers		9 C Arthur nor
sir Tristram	13 C knyghtes	S knyghtes
took kehidiis	24 C all holy	26 C† whan thye
Brangwayne and syre Dynas rode	33 C gentyl knyzt	27-8 C so dame
		Seneschall help



Trystram and sir Kehydyns prevaly into the courte, unto the chambir whereas La Beall Isode assygned them. And to telle the joyes that were betwixte La Beall Isode and sir Trystramys, there ys no maker can make hit, nothir no harte can thynke hit, nother no penne can wryte hit, nother no mowth can speke hit.

And as the Freynshe booke makith mension, at the firste tyme that ever sir Kayhidi(ns) saw La Beall Isode he was so enamored uppon hir that for very pure love he myght never withdraw hit. And at the laste, as ye shall hyre or the booke <sup>10</sup> be ended, sir Keyhydyns dyed for the love of Isode.

And than pryvaly he wrote unto her lettirs and baladis of the moste goodlyeste that were used in tho dayes. And whan La Beall Isode undirstoode hys lettirs she had pit   of hys complaynte, and unavisd she wrote another lettir to com- <sup>15</sup> forte hym withall.

And sir Trystram was all thys whyle in a turret, at the commaundemente of La Beall Isode, and whan she myght she yeode and come to sir Trystram.

So on a day kynge Marke played at the chesse undir a <sup>20</sup> chambir wyndowe, and at that tyme sir Trystramys and sir Keyhydyns were within the chambir over kynge Marke. And as hit myshapped, sir Trystrams founde the lettir that <sup>201</sup> sir Kayhydyns sente unto La Beall Isode; also he had founde the lettir that she had sente unto sir Keyhydyns. And at the <sup>25</sup> same tyme La Beall Isode was in the same chambir.

Than sir Trystramys com unto La Beall Isode and seyde, 'Madame, here ys a lettir that was sente unto you, and here ys the lettir that ye sente unto hym that sente you that lettir. Alas! madame, the good love that I have lovye you, <sup>30</sup> and many londis and grete rychesse have I forsakyn for youre love! And now ye ar a traytouras unto me, whych dothe me grete payne.

'But as for the, sir Keyhydyns, I brought the oute of Bretayne into thys contrey, and thy fadir, kynge Howell, I <sup>35</sup>

1 C kehydius pryuely vnto the      2 C chamber    S chambre      C Isoud  
hadde assygned hit and      4-7 C† there is no tonge can telle it nor herte  
thynke hit nor pen wryte hit And as      7 W makith makith      11 C for the loue  
(S for loue) of la beale Isoud      18-19 C myght she came vnto sire      24 C  
sent vn o la      25 C she wrote vnto Kehydius      25-6 C that same  
32 C to me the whiche

wan hys londis. Howbehit I wedded thy syster, Isode le Blaunche Maynes, for the goodnes she ded unto me, and yet, as I am a trew knyght, she ys a clene maydyn for me. But wyte thou well, sir Keyhydins, for thys falshed and  
 5 treson thou hast done unto me, I woll revenge hit upon the!' And therewithall sir Trystram drew his swerde and seyde, 'Sir Keyhidins, kepe the!' And than La Beall Isode sowned to the erthe.

And whan sir Keyhydins saw sir Trystrams com upon  
 10 hym, he saw none other boote but lepte oute at a baywyndow evyn over the hede where sate kynge Marke playyng at the chesse. And whan the kynge saw one com hurlyng over hys hede, he seyde,

'Felow, what arte thou, and what ys the cause thou lepe  
 15 oute at that wyndow?'

'My lorde kynge,' seyde sir Keyhydins, 'hit fortunèd me that I was aslepe in the wyndow abovyn youre hede, and as I slepte I slumbirde, and so I felle downe.'

Thus sir Keyhydins excused hym, and sir Trystram drad  
 20 hym leste he were discoverde unto the kyng that he was there. Wherefore he drew hym to the strength of the towre and armed hym in such armour as he had for to fyght with hem that wolde withstonde hym.

202<sup>r</sup> And so whan sir Trystram saw that there was no resistance  
 25 agaynste hym he sente Governayle for hys horse and hys speare, and knyghtly he rode forth oute of the castell opynly that was callyd the Castell of Tyntagyll.

And evyn at the gate he mette with sir Gyngalyn, Gawaynes sonne, and anone sir Gyngalyn put hys speare in  
 30 the reste and ran upon sir Trystram and brake hys speare. And sir Trystram at that tyme had but a swerde, and gaff hym such a buffet upon the helme that he fylle downe frome hys sadill, and hys swerde slode adowne and carved asundir his horse necke. And so sir Trystramys rode hys  
 35 way into the foreyste.

And all thys doynge saw kynge Marke, and than he sente

3 C am true      12 C chesses      14 C lepest      16 C the kynge      18 C slommeryd  
 19-20 C† hym Capitulum xiii Thenne sir Tristram dredde sore  
 lest      22 for not in S      29 C syr Gawayns      29-30 C in his reyste  
 33-4 C and carf a sonder

a squyer unto the hurte knyght and commaunded hym to com to hym, and so he ded. And whan kyng Marke wyst that hyt was sir Gyngalyn he wellcommyd hym and gaff hym anothir horse, and so he asked hym what knyght was that encountirde with hym. 5

'Sir,' seyde sir Gyngalyn, 'I wote nat what knyght hit was, but well I wote he syeth and makith grete dole.'

Than sir Trystrames within a whyle mette with a knyght of hys owne—hys name was sir Fergus—and whan he had mette with hym he made such sorow that he felle downe of 10 hys horse in a sowne, and in such sorow he was inne three dayes and three nyghtes.

Than at the laste sir Trystramys sente unto the courte by sir Fergus for to spurre what tydyngis. And so as he rode by the way he mette with a damesell that cam frome sir 15 Palomydes to know and seke how sir Trystramys ded. Than sir Fergus tolde her how he was allmoste oute of hys mynde.

'Alas!' seyde the damesell, 'where shall I fynde hym?'

'In suche a place,' seyde sir Fergus.

Than sir Fergus founde quene Isode syke in hir bedde, 20 makynge the grettyste dole that ever ony erthly woman made.

And whan the damesell founde sir Trystramys she made 202<sup>v</sup> grete dole, bycause she myght nat amende hym; for the more she made of hym, the more was hys payne. And at the laste sir Trystram toke hys horse and rode away frome her. And 25 than was hit three dayes or that she coude fynde hym, and than she broute hym mete and drynke, but he wolde none.

And than another tyme sir Trystramys ascaped away frome the damesell, and hit happened hym to ryde by the same castell where sir Palomydes and sir Trystramys dyd batayle, 30 whan La Beall Isode departed them. And there by fortune the damesell mette with sir Trystramys ayen, makynge the grettiste dole that ever erthely creature made, and she yode to the lady of that castell and tolde of the myssadventure of sir Trystrames. 35

'Alas!' seyde the lady of that castell, 'where ys my lorde sir Trystramys?'

4 C hym an horse and asked      7 C he sygheth      9 C owne that hyghte sir  
10 C made grete sorowe in so moche that he      11 C was in thre      14 C  
to spere      20 C seke      34 C tolde her

'Ryght here by youre castell,' seyde the damesell.

'In good tyme,' seyde the lady, 'ys he so nyghe me: he shall have mete and drynke of the beste. And an harpe I have of hys whereuppon he taught me, for of goodly harpyng  
5 he beryth the pryse of the worlde.'

So thys lady and damesell brought hym mete and drynke, but he ete lityll thereoff. Than uppon a nyght he put hys horse frome hym and unlaced hys armour, and so yeode unto the wyldirnes and braste downe the treys and bowis.

10 And othirwhyle, whan he founde the harpe that the lady sente hym, than wolde he harpe and play thereuppon and wepe togydirs. And somtyme, whan he was in the wood, the lady wyst nat where he was. Than wolde she sette hir downe and play uppon the harpe, and anone sir Trystramys wolde  
15 com to the harpe and harkyn thereto, and somtyme he wolde harpe hymselff.

Thus he there endured a quarter off a yere, and so at the  
203\* laste he ran hys way and she wyst nat where he was becom. And than was he naked, and waxed leane and poore of fleyshe.

20 And so he felle in the felyshyppe of herdemen and shyperdis, and dayly they wolde gyff hym som of their mete and drynke, and whan he ded ony shrewde dede they wolde beate hym with roddis. And so they clypped hym with sherys and made hym lyke a foole.

(19) 25 And s6 uppon a day sir Dagonet, kyng Arthurs foole, cam into Cornwayle with two squyers with hym, and as they rode thorow that foreyste they cam by a fayre welle where sir Trystramys was wonte to be. And the weddir was hote, and they alyght to drynke of that welle, and in the meane-  
30 whyle theyre horsys brake lowse.

Ryght so cam sir Trystramys unto them, and firste he sowsed sir Dagonet in that welle, and aftir that hys squyers, and thereat lowghe the shyperdis. And furthwithall he ran aftir their horsis and brought hem agayne one by one, and  
35 ryght so wete as they were he made them lepe up and ryde their wayes.

5 C in the world      8-9 C And thenne he unlaced his armour and thenne sir  
Tristram wold go in to the      12 C woode that the      14-15 C that harp  
Thenne wold sire Tristram come to that harp      17 C yere thene at      25 sir  
not in C      27 S came to a      31 C sire Tristram came      32 C after his

Thus sir Trystramys endured there an halff-yere naked,  
and wolde never com in towne.

So the meanewhyle the damesell that sir Palomydes sent  
to seke sir Trystram, she yode unto sir Palomydes and tolde  
hym off all the myschyff that sir Trystram endured. 5

'Alas!' seyde sir Palomydes, 'hit ys grete pité that ever  
so noble a knyght sholde be so myscheved for the love of a  
lady. But nevertheles I woll go and seke hym and comforte  
hym and I may.'

Than a lytyll before that tyme La Beall Isode had com- 10  
maunded sir Kayhydins oute of the contrey of Cornwayle.  
So sir Keyhydins departed with a dolerous harte, and by  
aventure he mette with sir Palomydes, and they felyshypped  
togydirs, and aythir complayned to other of there hote love  
that they loved La Beall Isode. 15

'Now lat us,' seyde sir Palomydes, 'seke sir Trystramys  
that lovyth her as well as we, and let us preve whether we  
may recover hym.'

So they rode into the foreyste, and three dayes and three 203v  
nyghtes they wolde never take lodgyng, but ever sought sir 20  
Trystram. And uppon a tyme by adventure they mette with  
kynge Marke that was rydden frome hys men all alone.  
And whan they saw hym sir Palomydes knew hym, but sir  
Keyhydins knew hym nat.

'A, false knyght!' seyde sir Palomydes, 'hit ys pité thou 25  
haste thy lyff, for thou arte a destroyer of all worshipfull  
knyghtes, and by thy myschyff and thy vengeaunce thou  
haste destroyed that moste noble knyght, sir Trystramys de  
Lyones. And therefore deffende the,' seyde sir Palomydes,  
'for thou shalt dye thys day!' 30

'That were shame,' seyde kynge Marke, 'for ye too ar  
armed and I am unarmed.'

'As for that,' seyde sir Palomydes, 'I shall fynde a remedy  
therefore: here ys a knyght with me, and thou shalt have  
hys harneyse.' 35

'Nay,' seyde kynge Marke, 'I woll nat have ado with you, .  
for cause have ye none to me: for all the mysseease that sir

2 C\* town ne vyllage    4 C yede    11 C Conutrey    S Countrey    16 W  
ws . C vs    17 C loued her    19 C that forest    24 C Kehydins S  
Kehydus    25 C fals kynge    28 S the mooste

Trystramys hath was for a lettir that he founde. For as for me, I ded to hym no displesure, and God knowith I am full sory for hys maledye and hys myssease.'

So whan the kynge had thus excused hymselff they were  
5 fryndys, and kynge Marke wolde have had them unto the  
Castell of Tyntagyll. But sir Palomydes wolde nat, but  
turned unto the realme of Logrys, and sir Keyhydins seyde  
that he wolde into Bretayne.

Now turne we unto sir Dagonet ayen, that whan he and  
10 hys squyers were uppon horsebacke he demyd that the  
shyperdis had sente that foole to aray hem so bycause that  
they lawghed at them. And so they rode unto the kepers of  
the bestis and all to-bete them.

Whan sir Trystramys saw hem betyn that were wonte to  
15 gyff hym mete, he ran thydir and gate sir Dagonet by the  
hede, and there he gaff hym such a falle to the erthe and  
brusede hym so that he lay styлле. And than he wraste hys  
204<sup>r</sup> swerde oute of hys honde, and therewith he ran to one of hys  
squyers and smote of hys hede, and hys othir squyer fled.  
20 And so sir Trystramys toke his way with the swerde in hys  
honde, rennyng as he had bene wyld woode.

Than sir Dagonet rode to kynge Marke and tolde hym  
how he had spedde in the foreyste, 'and therefore,' seyde sir  
Dagonet, 'beware, kynge Marke, that thou com nat aboute  
25 that well in the foreyste, for there ys a foole naked. And that  
foole and I, foole, mette togydir, and he had allmoste slayne  
me.'

'A,' seyde kynge Marke, 'that ys sir Matto le Breune that  
felle oute of hys wytte because he loste hys lady, for whan  
30 sir Gaherys smote downe sir Matto and wan hys lady of hym,  
never syns was he in his mynde, and that was grete pité, for  
he was a good knyght.'

(20) Than sir Andred that was cousyn unto sir Trystram made  
a lady that was hys paramour to sey and to noyse hit that  
35 she was with sir Trystramys or ever he dyed. And thys tale  
she brought unto kynge Markis house, that she buried hym

3 C his disease and malady 4 C thus xcused hym they 5-6 the Castell of  
not in C 11 S that soole 14 Whan not in C 15 C\* mete and drynke  
thenne he 16 there he not in C 16-17 C erthe that he brysed hym sore  
so 18 C swërd S swerd 19 C & the other fled 20 C that swerd  
23 C that forest 33 C vato S vnto 36 C markes courte that

by a welle, and that or he dyed he besoughte kynge Marke to make hys cousyn, sir Andred, kynge of the contrey of Lyonas, of the whych sir Trystramys was lorde of. And all thys ded sir Andred bycause he wolde have had sir Trystramys londis.

And whan kynge Mark harde telle that sir Trystrames was dede he wepte and made grete dole. But whan quene Isode harde of thes tydyngis, she made such sorow that she was nyghe oute of hir mynde. And so uppon a day she thought to sle hirselff and never to lyve aftir the deth of sir Trystramys.

10

And so uppon a day La Beall Isode gate a swerde pryvayly, and bare hit into her gardyne, and there she pyghte the swerde thorow a plum-tre up to the hyltis so that hit stake faste, and hit stooode breste-hyghe. And as she wolde have renne uppon the swerde and to have slayne hirselff, all

15

thys aspyed kynge Marke, how she kneled adowne and seyde, 'Sweyte Lorde Jesu, have mercy uppon me, for I may nat  
lyve aftir the deth of sir Trystram de Lyones, for he was my  
firste love and shall be the laste!'

204<sup>v</sup>

And with thes wordis cam kynge Marke and toke hir in  
hys armys. And than he toke up the swerde and bare hir  
away with hym into a towre, and there he made hir to be  
kepte, and wacched hir surely. And aftir that she lay longe  
syke, nyghe at the poynte of dethe.

20

So thys meanewhyle ran sir Trystramys naked in the  
foreyste with the swerde in hys honde, and so he cam to an  
ermytayge, and there he layde hym downe and slepte. And  
in the meanewhyle the ermyte stale away the swerde and  
layde mete downe by hym. Thus was he kepte there a ten  
dayes, and at the laste he departed and com to the herdemen  
ayen.

25

30

And there was a gyaunte in that contrey that hyght  
Tauleas, and for feare of sir Trystram more than seven yere  
he durste never muche go at large, but for the moste party  
he kepte hym in a sure castell of hys owne. And so thys  
Tauleas harde telle that sir Trystramys was dede by the  
noyse of the courte of kynge Marke. Than thys gyaunt  
Tauleas yode dayly at hys large.

35

9-10 C after sir tristrames deth  
Tauleas

37 gyaunt not in C

28 C his swerd

38 C Tauleas wente dayly at large

33 C Tawleas

36 C

And so he happyd uppon a day he cam to the herdemen wandrynge and langeryng, and there he sette hym downe to reste amonge them. And in the meanewhyle there cam a knyght of Cornwayle that led a lady with hym, and hys name  
5 was sir Dynaunte. And whan the gyaunte saw hym he wente frome the herdemen and hydde hym under a tre.

And so the knyght cam to the well and there he alyght to repose hym. And as sone as he was frome hys horse this gyaunte Tauleas com betwyxte thys knyght and hys horse  
10 and leped uppon hym, and so forthewith he rode unto sir Dynaunte and toke hym by the coler and pulled hym afore  
205 hym uppon hys horse, and wolde have stryken of hys hede.

Than the herdemen seyde unto sir Trystram, 'Helpe yondir knyght!'

15 'Helpe ye hym,' seyde sir Trystram.

'We dare nat,' seyde the herdemen.

Than sir Trystram was ware of the swerde of the knyght thereas hit lay, and so thydir he ran and toke up the swerde and smote to sir Tauleas, and so strake of hys hede, and so he  
20 yode hys way to the herdemen.

(21) Than sir Dynaunte toke up the gyauntes hede and bare hit with hym unto kynge Marke, and tolde hym what adventure betydde hym in the foreyste and how a naked man rescowed hym frome the grymly gyaunte sir Tauleas.

25 'Where had ye thys aventure?' seyde kynge Marke.

'Forsothe,' seyde sir Dynaunte, 'at the fayre fountayne in the foreyst, where many adventures knyght[es] mete, and there ys the madde man.'

'Well,' seyde kynge Marke, 'I woll se that wood man.'

30 So within a day or two kynge Marke commaunded hys knyghtes and his hunters to be redy, and seyde that he wolde hunte on the morne. And so uppon the morne he wente into that foreyste.

And whan the kynge cam to that welle he found there

3 And in *not in C* 5 *C* Dynaunt 9-10 *C\** hors and toke the hors and lepte (*see note*) 12 *C* and there wolde 18-22 *W* (*sidenote*): How sir Trystram slew Tauleas the Gyaunte 19 *C* smote to sir Tauleas and so *not in C†* 20 *C* yede 21 *C\** Thenne the knyght took vp *F* le chevalier 27 *C* in your foreste *C* aduenturous knyghtes 29 *C* that wild man 31-2 *C* hunters that they shold be redy on the morne for to hunte and soo



lyyng a fayre naked man, and a swerde by hym. Than kyng Marke blew and straked, and therewith hys knyghtes cam to hym, and than he commaunded hys knyghtes to take the naked man with fayrenes, 'and brynge hym to my castell.'

And so they ded savely and fayre, and keste mantels uppon sir Trystramys, and so lad hym unto Tyntagyll. And there they bathed hym and wayshed hym, and gaff hym hote suppyngis, tylle they had brought hym well to hys remembrance. But all thys whyle there was no creature that knew sir Trystramys nothir what maner man he was.

So hyt befelle uppon a day that the quene La Beall Isode hard of such a man that ran naked in the foreyste, and how the kyng had brought hym home to the courte. Than La Beall Isode called unto her dame Brangwayne and seyde, 'Com on with me, for we woll go se thys man that my lorde brought frome the foreste the laste day.'

So they passed forth and spurred where was the syke man, and than a squyer tolde the quene that he was in the gardyne takyng hys reste to repose hym ayenst the sunne.

So whan the quene loked uppon sir Trystramys she was nat remembird of hym, but ever she seyde unto dame Brangwayne, 'Mesemys I shulde have sene thys man here before in many placis.'

But as sone as sir Trystramys sye her he knew her well inowe, and than he turned away hys vysage and wepte.

Than the quene had allwayes a lytyll brachett that sir Trystramys gaff hir the first tyme that ever she cam into Cornwayle, and never wold that brachet departe frome her but yf sir Trystram were nyghe thereas was La Beall Isode. And thys brachet was firste sente frome the kynges doughter of Fraunce unto sir Trystrams for grete love.

And anone thys lityll bracket felte a savoure of sir Trystram. He lepte uppon hym and lycked hys learys and hys earys, and than he whyned and quested, and she smelled

1 C lyenge by that welle      6 C did sauffy      C cast      7 C ledde hym  
 8 C wasshed hym      11 maner *not in C†*      12 C Soo hit felle  
 18 C spered      20 C† rest and repose      22 C she heid      S she seid      23-4 C  
 me semeth I shold have sene hym here to fore      25 C sawe her      30 C  
 Tristram was      30-4 *W (sidenote)*: How the brachet of La Beall Isod distreved  
 syr Trystramys      31 firste *not in C†*      33 C anone as this      34 C\* she lepte

at hys feete and at hys hondis and on all the partyes of hys body that she myght com to.

'A, my lady!' seyde dame Brangwayne, 'Alas! I se hit ys myne owne lorde sir Trystramys.'

5 And thereuppon La Beall Isode felle downe in a sowne and so lay a grete whyle. And whan she myght speke she seyde,

'A, my lorde, sir Trystram! Blyssed be God ye have youre lyff! And now I am sure ye shall be discoverde by thys  
10 lityll brachet, for she woll never leve you. And also I am sure, as sone as my lorde kynge Marke do know you he woll banysh you oute of the contrey of Cornwayle, othir ellis he woll destroy you. And therefore, for Goddys sake, myne owne lorde, graunte kynge Marke hys wyll, and than draw  
15 you unto the courte off kynge Arthure, for there ar ye  
206<sup>r</sup> beloved. And ever whan I may I shall sende unto you, and whan ye lyst ye may com unto me, and at all tymes early and late I woll be at youre commaundement, to lyve as poore a lyff as ever ded quylene or lady.'

20 'A, madame!' seyde sir Trystramys, 'go frome me, for much angir and daunger have I ascaped for your love.'  
(22) Than the quene departed, but the brachet wolde nat frome hym, and therewithall cam kynge Marke, and the brachet sate uppon hym and bayed at them all. And therewithall sir

25 Andred spake and sayde,

'Sir, thys ys sir Trystramys, I se well by that brachet.'

'Nay,' seyde the kynge, 'I can nat suppose that.'

Than the kyng asked hym uppon hys faythe what he was and what was hys name.

30 'So God me helpe,' seyde he, 'my name ys sir Trystramys de Lyones. Now do by me what ye lyst.'

'A,' sayde kynge Marke, 'me repentis of youre recoverynge.'

And so he lete calle hys barownes to geve jugemente unto  
35 sir Trystramys to the dethe. Than many of hys barownes wolde nat assente thereto, and in especiall sir Dynas the

3 C Brangwayn vnto la beale Isoud Allas allas said she I see W Brangwayne  
seyde Alas I se 8 A not in C 13 And therefore not in C 15 C Conrte  
S Courte 20 C O madame 20-1 C for mykel arger 26 well not in C  
29 C† what was was 32-3 C your recouer 34-5 C to luge sir Tristram

Senesciall and sir Fergus. And so by the avyse of them all sir Trystramys was banysshed oute of the contrey for ten yere, and thereuppon he toke hys othe uppon a booke before the kyng and hys barownys.

And so he was made to departe oute of the contrey of Cornwayle, and there were many barownes brought hym unto hys shyp, that som were of hys frendis and som were of hys fooys.

And in the meanewhyle there cam a knyght of kyng Arthurs, and hys name was sir Dynadan, and hys commyng <sup>10</sup> was for to seke aftir sir Trystram. Than they shewed hym where he was, armed at all poyntis, going to the shyp.

'Now, fayre knyght,' seyde sir Dynadan, 'or ye passe thys courte, that ye woll juste with me [I requyre the].'

'With a good wyll,' seyde sir Trystramys, 'and these <sup>15</sup> lordes woll gyffe me leve.'

Than the barownes graunted thereto, and so they ranne <sup>206</sup> togydir, and there sir Trystramys gaff sir Dynadan a falle. And than he prayde sir Trystram of hys jantylnes to gyff hym leve to go in hys felyshyp. <sup>20</sup>

'Ye shall be ryght wellcom,' seyde he.

And than sir Trystramys and sir Dynadan toke their horsys and rode to their shypys togydir. And whan sir Trystramys was in the se he seyde,

'Grete well kyng Marke and all myne enemyes,\* and sey <sup>25</sup> to hem I woll com agayne whan I may. And sey hym well am I rewarded for the fyghtyng with sir Marhalt, and dellyverd all hys contrey frome servayge. And well am I rewarded for the fecchyng and costis of quene Isode oute off Irelande and the daunger that I was in firste and laste. <sup>30</sup> And by the way commyng home what daunger I had to brynge agayne quene Isode frome the Castell Pleure! And well am I rewarded whan I fought with sir Bleoberys for sir Segwarydes wyff. And well am I rewarded whan I faught with sir Blamoure de Ganys for kyng Angwysch, fadir unto <sup>35</sup> La Beall Isode.

1 C by thadyse 6-9 W (sidenote): How sir Trystrams geff sir Dynadan a  
falle 7-8 C shyp of the whiche somme were his frendes & somme his foes  
10 C Arthurs his sir not in C 19 of hys jantylnes not in C† 21-2 C  
said thenne sire Tristram\* and soo they took 26 to not in C sey hym  
not in C† 32 C castel Plure 33 C I am

‘And well am I rewarded whan I smote down the good  
 knyght sir Lamerok de Galis at kynge Markes requeste.  
 And well am I rewarded whan I faught with the Kynge with  
 the Hondred Knyghtes and the kynge of North Galys, and  
 5 both thes wolde have put hys londe in servayge, and by me  
 they were put to a rebuke. And well am I rewarded for the  
 sleynge of Tauleas, the myghty gyaunte. And many othir  
 dedys have I done for hym, and now have I my waryson!

‘And telle kynge Marke that many noble knyghtes  
 10 of the Rounde Table have spared the barownes of thys  
 contrey for my sake. And also, I am nat well rewarded whan  
 I fought with the good knyght sir Palomydes and rescowed  
 quene Isode frome hym. And at that tyme kynge Marke  
 seyde afore all hys barownes I sholde have bene bettir  
 15 rewarded.’

And furthewithall he toke the see.

And at the nexte londynge faste by the see there mette  
 with sir Trystram and with sir Dynadan sir Ector de Marys  
 and sir Bors de Ganys, and there sir Ector justed with sir  
 20 Dynadan and he smote hym and hys horse downe. And than  
 sir Trystram wolde have justed with sir Bors, and sir Bors  
 seyde that he wolde nat juste with no Cornyssh knyghtes,  
 for they ar nat called men of worship. And all thys was done  
 uppon a brydge.

25 And with thys cam sir Bleoberys and sir Dryaunte, and  
 sir Bleoberys profird to juste with sir Trystram, [and there  
 sir Trystram] smote downe sir Bleoberys. Than seyde sir  
 Bors de Ganys,

‘I wyste never Cornysh knyght of so grete a valure nor so  
 30 valyaunte as that knyght that beryth the trappours en-  
 browdred with crownys.’

And than sir Trystram and sir Dynadan departed from  
 them into a foreyst, and there mette them a damesell that  
 cam for the love of sir Launcelot to seke aftir som noble  
 35 knyghtes of kynge Arthurs courte for to rescow sir Launcelot.  
 For he was ordayned for by the treson of quene Morgan le

2 *C* Lamerak

6 *C* I am

10 *C* table roūd

11 And *not in C*

*C*

am I not

16 *W* and furthe *w<sup>t</sup>* all and furthe with all *C* nad forth with alle

25 *C* Dryaunt

35-p. 505, 1 *C* launcelot and soo *sw* launcelott was ordeyned

for by the treason of quene Morgan le fay to haue slayne sir launcelot

Fay to have slayne hym, and for that cause she ordayned thirty knyghtes to lye in wayte for sir Launcelot.

And thys damesell knew thys treson, and for thys cause she cam for to seke noble knyghtis to helpe sir Launcelot; for that nyght other the day after sir Launcelot sholde com where thes thirty knyghtes were.

And so thys damesell mette with sir Bors and sir Ector and with sir Dryaunte, and there she told hem all four of the treson of Morgan le Fay. And than they promysed her that they wolde be nyghe her whan sir Launcelot shold mete with  
10 the thirty knyghtes.

'And if so be they sette uppon hym, we woll do rescowis as we can.'

So the damesell departed, and by adventure she mette with sir Trystram and with sir Dynadan, and there the  
15 207<sup>v</sup> damesell tolde hem of all the treson that was ordayned for sir Launcelot.

'Now, fayre damesell,' seyde sir Trystram, 'brynge me to that same place where they shold mete with sir Launcelot.'

Than seyde sir Dynadan,

20

'What woll ye do? Hit ys nat for us to fyght with thirty knyghtes, and wyte you well I woll nat thereoff! As to  
• macche o knyght, two or three ys inow and they be men,  
but for to matche fiftene knyghtes, that I woll never undir-  
take.'

25

'Fy for shame!' seyde sir Trystram, 'do but youre parte!'

'Nay,' seyde sir Dynadan, 'I woll nat thereoff but iff ye woll lende me your shyld. For ye bere a shyld of Corn-  
wayle, and for the cowardyse that ys named to the knyghtes  
of Cornwayle by youre shyldys ye bene ever forborne.'

30

'Nay,' sayde sir Trystram, 'I woll nat departe frome my shyld for her sake that gaff hit me. But one thyng,' seyde  
sir Trystram, 'I promyse the, sir Dynadan: but if thou wolte  
promyse me to abyde with me ryght here I shall sle the. For I  
desyre no more of the but answere one knyght.  
And yf thy harte woll nat serve the, stonde by and loke  
uppon!'

'Sir,' seyde sir Dynadan, 'I woll promyse you to looke

2 C in a wayte  
damoisel met

5 the not in S  
23 C one knyght

10 C nyghe where sire  
28 C lene me

14 C the  
37 C vpon me and them

uppon and to do what I may to save myselff, but I wolde I had nat mette with you.'

So than anone thes thirty knyghtes cam faste by thes four knyghtes, and they were ware of them, and aythir of other.  
 5 And so thes thirty knyghtes lette (them passe) for thys cause, that they wolde nat wratth them if case be they had ado with sir Launcelot. And the four knyghtes lette them passe to thys entente, that they wolde se and beholde what they wolde do with sir Launcelot.

10 And so the thirty knyghtes paste on and cam by sir Trystram and by sir Dynadan, and than sir Trystramys cryed on hyght:

'Lo here ys a knyght ayenste you for the love of sir Launcelot!'

15 And there he slew two with a speare and ten with hys swerde. And than cam in sir Dynadan and he ded passyng  
 208<sup>r</sup> welle. And so of the thirty knyghtes there yood but ten away, and they fledde.

And all thys batayle saw sir Bors de Ganyes and hys three  
 20 felowys, and than they saw well hit was the same knyght that justed with hem at the brydge. Than they toke their horsys and rode unto sir Trystramys and praysed hym and thanked hym of hys good dedys. And they all desyred sir Trystram to go with them to their lodgyng, and he seyde he wold nat  
 25 go to no lodgyng. Than they four knyghtes prayde hym to telle hys name.

'Fayre lordys,' seyde sir Trystramys, 'as at thys tyme I woll nat telle you my name.'

(24) Than sir Trystram and sir Dynadan rode forthe their way  
 30 tylle they cam to shyperdis and to herdemen. And there they asked them if they knew ony lodgyng there nerehonde.

'Sir,' seyde the herdemen, 'hereby ys good herberow in a castell, but there ys such a custom that there shall no knyght herberow there but if he juste with two knyghtes, and if he  
 35 be but o knyght he muste juste with two knyghtes. And as ye be, sone shall ye be macched.'

6 C	caas be	12 C	on hyghe	15 C†	with one sperd	17 C	there
wente	24 C	he said	nay he wold	25 C	they alle four	26 C	telle
hem his	31 C	nyghe	hand	32 C	Forsothe syrs sayde	the	C
good lodgyng	in	33-4 C	knyghte	be herberowed	but	35 C	but one
35-6 C	two	And as ye be	therin soone				

'There ys shrewde herberow!' seyde sir Dynadan. 'Lodge where ye woll, for I woll nat lodge there.'

'Fye for shame!' seyde sir Trystramys, 'ar ye nat a knyght of the Table Rounde? Wherefore ye may nat with your worship reffuse your lodgynges.'

'Not so,' seyde the herdemen, 'for and ye be beatyn and have the warse, ye shall nat be lodged there, and if ye beate them ye shall well be herberowed.'

'A,' seyde sir Dynadan, 'I undirstonde they ar two good knyghtes.' 10

Than sir Dynadan wolde nat lodge there in no maner but as sir Trystramys requyred hym of hys knyghthode, and so they rode thydir. And to make shorte tale, sir Trystram and sir Dynadan smote hem downe bothe, and so they entirde into the castell and had good chere as they cowde 15  
thynke or devyse.

And whan they were unarmed and thought to be myry and in good reste, there cam in at the yatis sir Palomydes and sir Gaherys, requyryng to have the custum of [the] castell. 20

'What aray ys thys?' seyde sir Dynadan, 'I wolde fayne have my reste.'

'That may nat be,' seyde sir Trystram. 'Now muste we 208<sup>v</sup>  
nedis defende the custum of thys castell insomuch as we have the bettir of this lordes of thys castell. And therefor,' 25  
seyde sir Trystram, 'nedis muste ye make you redy.'

'In the devyls name,' seyde sir Dynadan, 'cam I into youre company!'

And so they made them redy, and sir Gaherys encountirde with sir Trystram, and sir Gaherys had a falle. And sir 30  
Palomydes encountirde with sir Dynadan, and sir Dynadan had a falle: than was hit falle for falle. So than muste they fyght on foote, and that wolde nat sir Dynadan, for he was sore brused of that falle that sir Palomydes gaff hym.

Than sir Trystramys laced on sir Dynadans helme and 35  
prayde hym to helpe hym.

'I woll nat,' seyde sir Dynadan, 'for I am sore wounded of

7 *C* the wers  
S knyghthode  
vnlaced syre

8 *C* be wel

21 fayne not in *C*†

9 I undirstonde not in *C*

33 and not in *C*

12 *C* knyghthode

35 *C* Tristram

the thirty knyghtes that we had ado withall. But ye fare,'  
 seyde sir Dynadan, 'as a man [that] were oute of hys mynde  
 that wold caste hymselff away. And I may curse the tyme  
 that ever I sye you, for in all the worlde ar nat such two  
 5 knyghtes that ar so wood as ys sir Launcelot and ye, sir  
 Trystram! For onys I felle in the felyshyp of sir Launcelot  
 as I have done now with you, and he sette me so a worke that  
 a quarter of a yere I kept my bedde. Jesu deffende me,' seyde  
 sir Dynadan, 'frome such two knyghtys, and specially frome  
 10 youre felyshyp.'

Than seyde sir Trystram, 'I woll fyght with hem bothe!'

And anone sir Trystram bade hem com forthe bothe, 'for  
 I woll fyght with you'. Than sir Palomydes and sir Gaherys  
 dressed and smote at hem bothe. Than sir Dynadan smote  
 15 at sir Gaherys a stroke or two, and turned frome hym.

'Nay!' seyde sir Palomydes. 'Hit ys to much shame for  
 us two knyghtes to fyght with one!' And than he ded  
 bydde sir Gaherys, 'Stonde asyde with that knyght that  
 hath no lyst to fyght.'

20 Than they rode togydirs and fought longe, and at the  
 laste sir Trystram doubled hys stroke and drove sir Palo-  
 209<sup>r</sup> mydes abak more than three stryddys. And than by one  
 assente sir Gaherys and sir Dynadan wente betwyxte them  
 and departed them in sundir.

25 And than by the assente of sir Trystramys they wolde  
 have lodged togydirs, but sir Dynadan seyde he wold nat  
 lodge in that castell. And than he cursed the tyme that ever  
 he com in theyre felyship, and so he toke hys horse and hys  
 harneyse and departed.

30 Than sir Trystram prayde the lordys of that castell to  
 lende hym a man to brynge hym to a lodgyng. And so they  
 ded, and overtoke sir Dynadan and rode to hir lodgyng,  
 two myle thens, with a good man in a pryory; and there they  
 were well at ease.

35 And that same nyght sir Bors and sir Bleoberys and sir  
 Ector and sir Dryaunt abode styll in the same place thereas

1 C hadde but late agoo to doo with alle      2 C Dynadan vnto syr Trystram  
 as a madde man and as a man pt is oute of      5 C that ben so      7 so not in C  
 12 C Thenne syr      14 C dressid them and      sir not in C      20-1 C  
 atte last      21 C strokes      26 seyde he not in C<sub>o</sub>      28 C† their feauship  
 31 C lene hym



sir Trystram faught with [the] thirty knyghtes. And there they mette with sir Launcelot the same nyght, and had made promyse to lodge with sir Collgrevaunce the same nyght.

But anone as sir Launcelot harde of the shyld of Corn- (25)  
wayle, he wyste well hit was sir Trystram that had fought 5  
with hys enemyes, and than sir Launcelot praysed sir  
Trystram and called hym the man of moste worshyp in the  
worlde.

So there was a knyght in that pryory that hyght sir  
Pellynore, and he desyred to wete the name of sir Trystram, 10  
but in no wyse he coude nat. And so sir Trystram departed  
and lefte sir Dynadan in that pryory, for he was so wery  
and so sore brused that he myght nat ryde. Than thys  
knyght sir Pellynore seyde unto sir Dynadan,

'Sith that ye woll nat telle me that knyghtes name, I shall 15  
ryde affter hym and make hym to telle me hys name, other  
he shall dye therefore.'

'Yet beware, sir knyght,' seyde sir Dynadan, 'for and ye  
folow hym ye woll repente hit.'

So that knyght, sir Pellynor, rode aftir sir Trystram and 20  
requyred hym of justis. Than sir Trystram smote hym  
downe and wounded hym thorow the shulder, and so he 209  
paste on hys way.

And on the nexte day folowyng sir Trystram mette with  
pursyvantis, and they tolde hym that there was made a grete 25  
crye of turnemente betwene kynge Carados of Scotlonde  
and the kynge of North Galys, and aythir shulde juste agayne  
othir afore the Castell of Maydyns. And thes pursyvauntis  
sought all the contrey aftir good knyghtes, and in especial  
kynge Carados lete make grete sykyng for sir Launcelot, 30  
and the kynge of North Galis lete seke specially for sir  
Trystramys de Lyones. And at that tyme sir Trystramys  
thought to be at that justis.

And so by adventure they mette with sir Kay the Sene-  
sciall and sir Sagramoure le Desirous, and sir Kay requyred 35

1 W with sir Trystramys xxxti knyghtes C\* with the thirtty knyghtes 4  
C as the noble Knyghte syre 5 C thenne wist he wel that hyt was 9 sir not  
in C 12 C the pryory 15 CI will 18 Yet not in C 19 C ye  
shalle 21 C† si Tristram 27 C kynge of Northwalys 28 C at the  
30 grete not in C C launcelot du lake 31 C seke after sir 32 C lyonas  
34-5 C seneschal and syr Sagramor le desyrus

syr Trystram to juste. And sir Trystram in a maner refused hym, bycause he wolde nat be hurte nothir brused aȳenste the grete justis that shuld [be] before the Castell of Maydyns, and therefore he thought to reste hym and to repose hym.

5 And allway sir Kay cryed,

‘Sir knyght of Cornwayle, juste with me, othir ellys yelde the to me as recreaunte!’

Whan sir Trystram herd hym sey so he turned unto hym, and than sir Kay refused hym and turned hys backe. Than  
10 sir Trystram sayde,

‘As I fynde the, I shall take the!’

Than sir Kay turned with evyll wyll, and sir Trystram smote sir Kay downe, and so he rode forthe.

Than sir Sagramoure le Desirous rode aftir sir Trystram  
15 and made hym to juste with hym. And there sir Trystram smote downe sir Sagramoure frome hys horse and rode hys way.

And the same day he mette with a damesell that tolde hym that he sholde wyne grete worshyp of a knyght  
20 adventures that ded much harme in all that contrey. Whan sir Trystramys herde her sey so he was glad to go with her to wyn worshyp. And so sir Trystram rode with that  
210<sup>r</sup> damesell a six myle.

And than there mette with hym sir Gawayne, and there-  
25 withall sir Gawayne knew the damesell, that she was longynge to quyne Morgan le Fay. Than sir Gawayne undirstood that she lad that kynght to som myschyeff, and sayde,

‘Fayre knyght, whothir ryde ye now with that damesell?’

‘Sir,’ seyde sir Trystram, ‘I wote nat whothir I shall ryde  
30 but as thys damesell woll lede me.’

‘Sir,’ seyde sir Gawayne, ‘ye shall nat ryde with her, for she and her lady ded never goode but yll.’

And than sir Gawayne pulled oute hys swerde and seyde,  
‘Damesell, but yf thou telle me anone for what cause thou  
35 ledyst thys knyght, thou shalt dye for hit ryght anone, for I know all youre ladyes treson and yours.’

4 C to repose hym and to reste hym

le desyrus

Morgan

what what

knowe

20 C aduenturous

27-8 C mescheyf Faire knyght said sire Gawayne whyder

35-6 C knygt with the thou shalt dye for hit ryght anon I

8 C to hym

25-6 C\* was a damoyssel of Quene

34 C†

14, 16 C Sagramore

'A, mercy, sir Gawayne,' seyde she, 'and yff ye woll save my lyff I woll telle you.'

'Say on,' seyde sir Gawayne, 'and thou shalt have thy lyff.'

'Sir,' she seyde, 'quene Morgan, my lady, hath ordayned a thirty ladyes to seke and aspye aftir sir Launcelot or aftir sir Trystram, and by the traynys of thes ladyes, who that may fyrste mete ony of thes two knyghtes, they shulde turne hem unto Morgan le Fayes castell, sayyng that they sholde do dedys of worship. And yf ony of tho two knyghtes cam, there be thirty knyghtes liyng and wacchyng in a towre to wayte uppon sir Launcelot or uppon sir Trystram.'

'Fy for shame,' seyde sir Gawayne, 'that evir such false treson sholde be wrought or used in a quene and a kyngys systir, and a kynge and a quenys doughtir! Sir,' seyde sir Gawayne, 'wyl ye stonde with me, and we woll se the malyce of thes knyghtes.'

'Sir,' seyde sir Trystram, 'go ye to them and hit please you, and ye shall se I woll nat fayle you, for hit ys not longe ago syn I and a felow mette with thirty [knyghtes] of the quenys felyship, and God spede us so that we won away with worship.'

So than sir Gawayne and sir Trystram rode towarde the castell where Morgan le Fay was; and ever sir Gawayne demed that he was sir Trystram de Lyones, bycause he hard that two knyghtes had slayn and beatyn thirty knyghtes. And whan they cam afore the castell sir Gawayne spake on hyght and seyde,

'Quene Morgan, sende oute youre knyghtes that ye have layde in wacche for sir Launcelot and for sir Trystram. Now,' seyde sir Gawayne, 'I know youre false treson, and all placis where that I ryde shall know of youre false treson. And now lat se,' seyde sir Gawayne, 'whethir ye dare com oute of youre castell, ye thirty knyghtes.'

Than the quene spake and all the thirty knyghtes at onys, and seyde,

'A, sir Gawayne, full well wotist thou what thou dost and seyst, for, pardé, we know the passyng well. But all that

1 A *not in C* C she said 4 C Morgan le fay 5-6 C or sir 10  
C\* there there 16 C these thyrty knyghtes 19 C of that 20 C  
we may wyne worship 27 C Morgan le fay 29-30 C\* and thorow all  
places where that I ryde men shall knowe 31 seyde *not in C†* 35 A  
*not in C* 36 C For by god we

thou spekest and doyst, thou sayste hit uppon pryde of that good knyght that ys there with the. For there be som of us know the hondys of that good knyght overall well. And wyte thou well, sir Gawayne, 'hit is more for his sake than  
 5 for thyn that we wolle not come oute of this castel, for wete ye well, sir Gawayne', the knyght that beryth the armys of Cornwayle, we know hym and what he ys.'

Than sir Gawayne and sir Trystram departed and rode on their wayes a day or two togydirs, and there by adventure  
 10 they mette with sir Kay and with sir Sagramour le Desyrous. And than they were glad of sir Gawayne and he of them, but they wist nat what he was with the shyld of Cornwayle but by demyng.

And thus they rode togydirs a day or too, and than they  
 15 were ware of sir Breuse Saunz Pit  chasyng a lady for to have slayne her, for he had slayn her paramour afore.

'Holde you all styll,' seyde sir Gawayne, 'and shew none of you forth, and ye shall se me rewarde yonder false knyght: for and he aspye you, he ys so well horsed that he  
 20 wolle ascape away.'

211<sup>r</sup> And than sir Gawayne rode betwixt sir Breuse and the lady and sayde,

'False knyght, leve her and have ado with me!'

So whan sir Brewse saw no man but sir Gawayne, he  
 25 feautred hys speare, and sir Gawayne ayenste hym. And there sir Breuse overthrew sir Gawayne, and than he rode [over] hym and overtwarte hym twenty tymys to have destroyed hym.

And [whan] sir Trystram saw hym do so vylaunch a dede  
 30 he hurled oute ayenste hym, and whan sir Breuse hym saw with the shyld of Cornwayle he knew hym well that hit was sir Trystram. And than he fledde, and sir Trystrams folowed hym, and so sir Breuse was so horsed that he wente hys way quyte. And sir Trystram folowed hym longe affter, for he  
 35 wolde fayne have bene avenged uppon hym.

3 C knowen full wel the handes of that knyght ouer alle wel 4-6 F (MS. B.N. fr. 103 f. 184<sup>v</sup> col. 1): 'Messire Gauvain, sachi s que la paour de vous ne nous fait pas ceans demourer, ainchois le fait meilleur de vous; car s'il n'eust la hors fors vous, vous trouvissi s bien qui s'alast combattre a vous.' *Homocoteleuton in W*  
 15 C Breuse sa ce pyte 24 C† syre gayne 32-3 C folowed after hym 33 C and Breuse saunce pyte 34 after not in C

And so whan he had longe chaced hym he saw a fayre well,  
and thydir he rode to repose hym, and tyed hys horse tyll  
a tre. And than he pulled of hys helme and waysshed hys (27)  
vysayge and hys hondes, and so he felle on slepe.

And so in the meanewhyle cam a damesell that had sought  
sir Trystram many wayes and dayes within thys londe.  
And whan she cam to the welle she loked uppon hym and  
had forgotyn hym as in remembraunce of sir Trystrames,  
but by hys horse she knew hym, that hyght Passe-Brewell,  
that had ben hys horse many yerys; for whan he was madde 10  
in the foreyste sir Fergus kepte hym. So thys lady, dame  
Brangwayne, abode styll tyll he was awake. And whan she  
saw hym awaked she salewed hym and he her agayne, for  
aythir knew other of olde acquyentaunce. Than she tolde  
sir Trystram how she had sought hym longe and brode, and 15  
there she tolde hym how she had lettirs frome the quene La  
Beall Isode. Than anone [sir Trystram redde them, and wete  
ye well he was gladde, for therein was many a pyteous com-  
playnte. Than sir Trystram] sayde,

'Lady, dame Brangwayne, ye shall ryde with me tyll the 20  
turnemente be done at the Castell of Maydyns. And than 211<sup>v</sup>  
shall ye beare lettirs and tydynges with you.'

And than sir Trystram toke hys horse and sought  
lodgyng, and there he mette with a good aunciaunte knyght  
and prayde hym to lodge with hym. Ryght so com Gover- 25  
naye unto sir Trystram that was glad of the comyng of  
the lady. And thys old knyghtes name was sir Pellownes,  
and he tolde hym of the grete turnemente that shulde be at  
the Castell of Maydyns: 'And there sir Launcelot and two  
and twenty knyghtes of hys blood have ordayne shyldis of 30  
Cornwayne.'

And ryght so there com one unto sir Pellownes and tolde  
hym that sir Persides de Bloyse was com home. Than that  
knyght hylde up hys hondys and thanked God of hys

3 C† Capitulum XVII      10 C ben sire Tristrmas hors      13 C hym wake  
14-15 C told hym how      17-20 W anone seyde lady dame Bragwayne      C\*  
anon sire Tristram redde them and wete ye well he was gladde for theryn was  
many a pyteous complaynte Thenne sir Tristram said lady Brangwayne W's  
reading is an example of a 'combined error': a homoeoteleuton caused by the recurrence  
of sir Trystram and followed by the omission of these words (see note)      20 C tyl  
that      24 C auncyent      25-6 C† Goneraille      S Gouveraille      26 of  
the comyng not in C      29-30 C and xxxii knyghtes      30 C ordeyned

commynge home, and there sir Pellownes tolde sir Trystram that of two yere afore he had nat sene hys son, sir Persydes.

'Sir,' seyde sir Trystramys, 'I know youre son well inowgh for a good knyght.'

- 5 And so one tyme sir Trystramys and sir Persydes com to their lodgyng both at onys, and so they unarmed h[e]m and put uppon them such clothyng as they had. And than thes two knyghtes ech wellcomyd other, and whan sir Persides undirstood that sir Trystram was of Cornwayle he  
10 seyde he was onys in Cornwayle,

'And there I justed before kynge Marke, and so hit happened me at that same day to overthrow ten knyghtis. And than cam to me sir Trystramys de Lyonas and overthrew me, and toke my lady fro me, and that shall I never  
15 forge, but I shall remembir me and ever I se my tyme.'

'A,' sayde sir Trystram, 'now I undirstonde that ye hate sir Trystram. What deme you? That sir Trystram ys nat able to withstonde youre malyce?'

'Yes,' seyde sir Persydes, 'I know well that sir Trystram  
20 ys a noble knyght and a mucche bettir knyght than I am, yet I shall nat owghe hym my good wyll.'

- 212<sup>r</sup> Ryght as they stood thus talkynge at a bay-wyndow of that castell, they sye many knyghtes ryde to and fro toward the turnemente. And than was sir Trystram ware of a lykly  
25 knyght rydyng uppon a grete black horse, and a blacke coverde shyld.

'What knyght ys that,' seyde sir Trystram, 'with the blacke shyld and the blacke horse?'

'I know hym well,' seyde sir Persides, 'he ys one of the  
30 beste knyghtes of the worlde.'

'Than hit ys sir Launcelot,' seyde sir Trystramys.

'Nay,' seyde sir Persides, 'hit ys sir Palomydes that ys yett oncrystynde.'

- (28) Than they saw mucche people of the contrey salew sir  
35 Palomydes, and seyde with a lowde voice,

'Jesu save the and kepe the, thou noble knyght sir Palomydes!'

2 C that in two yeres he 5 C soo on a tyme 6 W unarmed hym C\*  
vnaarmed hem 7 C vpon hem their clothyng And 14 C lady away from  
17 C\* deme ye wene ye that 28-9 C\* black hors & the blak sheld he semeth  
(S semes) a good knyght I 35-7 and . . . Palomydes not in Ct

And within a whyle aftir there cam a squyer of that castell that tolde sir Pellownes, that was lorde of that castell, that a knyght with a blacke shyld had smyttyn downe thirtene knyghtes.

'Now, fayre brother,' seyde sir Trystram unto sir Persydes, 'lat us caste on us lyght clokys, and lat us go se that play.'

'Not so,' seyde sir Persides, 'we woll nat go lyke knavys thydir, but we woll ryde lyke men and as good knyghtes to withstonde oure enemyes.'

So they armed them and toke their horsys and grete spearys, and thydir they rode thereas many knyghtes assayed themselff byfore the turnemente. And anone sir Palamydes saw sir Persides, and than he sente a squyar unto hym and seyde,

'Go thou to the yondir knyght with the grene shyld and therein a lyon of gooldys, and say hym I requyre hym to juste with me, and telle hym that my name ys sir Palomydes.'

Whan sir Persides undirstood the rekeyst of sir Palomydes he made hym redy. And there anone they mette togydirs, but sir Persides had a falle.

Than sir Trystram dressed hym to be revenged uppon sir Palomydes. And that saw sir Palomydes that was redy, and so was nat sir Trystram, and toke hym at avauntage and smote hym over hys horse tayle, whan he had no speare in hys reste.

Than sterte up sir Trystram, and toke horse lyghtly, and was wrothe oute of mesure and sore ashamed of that falle. Than sir Trystramys sente unto sir Palomydes by Governayle and prayde hym to juste with hym at hys rekeyste.

'Nay,' seyde sir Palomydes, 'as at thys tyme I woll nat juste with that knyght, for I know hym bettir than he wenyth. And if he be wroth, he may ryght hit to-morne at the Castell Maydyns, where he may se me and many other knyghtes.'

1-2 C the castel    6 C† vpon vs clokes    6-7 C the play    12 C they went  
28 C took his hors    34-p. 516, 7 W (*sidenote*): How sir Trystram was takyn at avauntage or he was redy by sir Palomydes and had a fall  
castel of maydens    35 C

So with that cam sir Dynadan, and whan he saw sir Trystram wroth he lyst nat to jape, but seyde,

'Lo, sir Trystram, here may a man preve, be he never so good yet may he have a falle; and he was never so wyse  
5 but he myght be oversayne, and he rydyth well that never felle.'

So sir Trystram was passyng wrothe and seyde to sir Persides and to sir Dynadan,

'I woll revenge me!'

10 Ryght so as they stooode talkynge, there cam by sir Trystram a lykly knyght, rydyng passyng sobirly and hevvyly, with a blacke shylde.

'What knyght ys that?' seyde sir Trystram unto sir Persides.

15 'I know hym well,' seyde sir Persides, 'for hys name ys sir Bryaunte of Northe Walis.'

And so he paste on amonge other knyghtes of North Walis. And there com in sir Launcelot de Lake with a shylde of the armys of Cornwayle, and he sente a squyer  
20 unto sir Bryaunte and requyred hym to juste with hym.

'Well,' seyde sir Bryaunte, 'sythyn that I am requyred to juste, I woll do what I may.'

And there sir Launcelot smote downe sir Bryaunte frome hys horse a grete falle. And than sir Trystram mervayled  
25 what knyght he was that bar the shylde of Cornwayle.

'Sir, whatsoever he be,' seyde sir Dynadan, 'I warraunte he ys of king Bannys blode, whych bene knyghtes of the nobelyst proues in the worlde, for to accompte so many for so many.'

30 Than there cam in two knyghtes of North Galys, that one  
213<sup>r</sup> hyght sir Hew de la Mountayne, and the other sir Madok de la Mountayne, and they chalenged sir Launcelot footehote, sir Launcelot not refusynge hem, but made hym redy, and with one grete speare he smote downe bothe over their  
35 horse taylis, and so sir Launcelot rode hys way.

2-3 C to Iape lo sayd sir Dynadan here may 3 C Be a man neuer 5  
C ouersene 10 C there there 16 C Bryaunt of Northwalys 21 C  
Bryannt S Bryaunt 23 C smote donne (S doune) 25-6 C Cornewaile  
what so euer 26-7 C warante you he 27 C blood the whiche 27-8  
C the moost noble prowesse 30 in not in C 31 C Hewe 34-5 C one  
spere he smote hem doune bothe ouer their hors croupes



'By the good Lorde,' seyde sir Trystram, 'he ys a good knyght that beryth the shyld of Cornwayle, and mesemyth he rydith on the beste maner that ever I saw knyght ryde.'

Than the kynge of North Galis rode unto sir Palomydes and prayed him hartely for hys sake 'to juste with that knyght that hath done us of North Galis dispite.'

'Sir,' seyde sir Palomydes, 'I am full lothe to have ado with that knyght, and cause why as to-morne the grete turnemente shall be. And therefore I wolde kepe myself freyssh be my wyll.'

'Nay,' seyde the kynge of North Galis, 'I pray you, requyre hym of justis.'

'Sir,' seyde sir Palomydes, 'I woll juste at youre requeste, and requyre that knyght to juste with me. And oftyn I have seyne a man at hys owne requeste have a grete falle.'

Than sir Palomydes sente unto sir Launcelot a squyre and requyred hym to juste,

'Fayre fellow,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'tell me thy lordis name.'

'Sir, my lordys name ys sir Palomydes, the good knyght.'

'In good owre,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'for there ys no knyght I saw thys seven yere that I had levir have ado withall.'

And so ayther knyghtes made them redy with two grete spearys.

'Nay,' seyde sir Dynadan, 'ye shall se that sir Palomydes woll quyte hym ryght well.'

'Hyt may be so,' seyde sir Trystram, 'but I undirtake that knyght with the shyld of Cornwayle shall gyff hym a falle.'

'I beleve hit nat,' seyde sir Dynadan.

Ryght [so] they spurred their horsis and feautred their spearys, and aythir smote other. And sir Palomydes brake a speare uppon sir Launcelot, and he sate and meved nat. But sir Launcelot smote hym so harde that he made hys horse

3 C in the best 8 C cause why is for as 16 C† Capitulum XIX 17 C of Iustes 22-3 C knyght that I sawe thys seuen yeres that I had leuer adoo with all than with hym 35 C† smote hym so lyghtly F (MS. B.N. fr. 334 f. 227<sup>r</sup> col. 2): Et Lancelot du Lac fiert Palamedes si roidement de si grant force en mi le piz que il n'a pas tant de pooir que il puisse le cop soustenir, ançois vole du cheval a terre

213<sup>v</sup> to avoyde the sadill, and the stroke brake hys shyld and the hawbarke, and had he nat fallyn he had be slayne.

‘How now?’ seydesir Trystram. ‘I wyst well by the maner of their rydyng bothe that sir Palomydes shulde have a falle.’

5 Ryght so sir Launcelot rode hys way, and rode to a well to drynke and repose hym. And they of North Galis aspyed hym whother he wente. And than there folowed hym twelve knyghtes for to have myscheved hym for thys cause, that upon the morne at the turnemente at the Castell of  
10 Maydyns that he sholde nat wyn the victory.

So they com uppon sir Launcelot suddeynly, and unnethe he myght put on hys helme and take hys horse but they were in hondis with hym. And than sir Launcelot gate hys speare in hys honde and ran thorow them, and there he slew a  
15 knyght and brake hys speare in hys body. Than he drew hys swerde and smote uppon the ryght honde and uppon the lyfte honde, that within a few strokis he had slayne other three knyghtes, and the remenaunte that abode he wounded hem sore, all that ded abyde. Thus sir Launcelot ascaped  
20 fro hys enemyes of Northe Walis.

And than sir Launcelot rode hys way tylle a frynde, and lodged hym tylle on the morowe, for he wolde nat the firste day have ado in the turnemente bycause of hys grete laboure. And on the first day he was with kynge Arthur, thereas he  
25 was sette on hye uppon a chafflet to d[i]scerne who was beste worthy of hys dedis. So sir Launcelot was with kynge Arthur and justed nat the first day.

7 C whyther he rode  
13-14 C spere and rode thorow

9 C of the castel  
17 C lyfte hand soo that

12 C putte vpon hym  
25 C vpon a schaffold

V

THE CASTLE OF MAIDENS

[*Winchester MS.*, ff. 213<sup>v</sup>–222<sup>v</sup>;  
*Caxton, Book IX*, chs. 30–37.]



## CAXTON'S RUBRICS

30. How syr Trystram byhaved hym the fyrst day of the tournement, and there he had the prys.
31. How syr Trystram retourned ayenst kyng Arthurs partye bycause he sawe syr Palomydes on that partye.
32. How syr Trystram fonde Palomydes by a welle and broughte hym wyth hym to his lodgyng.
33. How syr Trystram smote doun sir Palomydes, and how he justed wyth kyng Arthur, and other feates.
34. How syr Launcelot hurte syr Trystram, and how after syr Trystram smote doun syr Palomydes.
35. How the prys of the thyrd day was gyven to syr Launcelot and syr Launcelot gaf it to syr Trystram.
36. How Palomydes came to the castel where syr Trystram was, and of the queste that syr Launcelot and ten knyghtes made for syr Tristram.
37. How syr Trystram, syr Palomydes, and syr Dynadan were taken and put in pryson.



HERE BEGYNNYTH THE TURNEMENT OF THE CASTEL MAYDYNS.

THE FYRSTE DAY.

**N**OW turne we unto sir Trystramys de Lyones that (30)  
 commaunded Governayle, hys servaunte, to ordayne  
 hym a blacke shyld with none other remembraunce therein, 5  
 and so sir Persides and sir Trystramys departed from sir  
 Pellownes. And they rode erly toward the turnemente,  
 and than they drew them to kynge Carydos syde of 214<sup>r</sup>  
 Scotlonde.

And anone knyghtes began the filde, what of the kynge 10  
 of North Galys syde and of kynge Carydos; and there began  
 a grete party. Than there was hurlyng and russhyng.  
 Ryght so cam in sir Persides and sir Trystram, and so they  
 ded fare that day that they put the kyng of North Galis  
 abacke.

Than cam in sir Bleoberys de Ganys and sir Gaherys with 15  
 them of North Galis. And than was sir Persides smyttyn  
 adowne and allmoste slayne, for mo than forty horsemen  
 wente over hym. For sir Bleoberys ded grete dedes of  
 armys, and sir Gaherys fayled hym not. 20

Whan sir Tristram behylde them and sye them do such  
 dedis of armys he mervayled what they were. Also sir  
 Trystram thought shame that sir Persides was so done to.  
 And than he gate a grete speare in hys honde, and rode to  
 sir Gaherys and smote hym downe frome hys horse. 25

And than sir Bleoberys was wrothe, and gate a speare  
 and rode ayenste sir Trystram in grete ire. And there sir  
 Trystram smote sir Bleoberys frome hys horse. So than the  
 Kynge with the Hondred Knyghtes was wrothe, and he  
 horsed sir Bleoberys and sir Gaherys agayne, and there 30  
 began a grete medlé. And ever sir Trystram hylde them  
 passyng shorte, and ever sir Bleoberys was passyng bysy  
 uppon sir Trystram.

And there cam in sir Dynadan ayenst sir Trystram, and

1-2 *not in C*      6-7 *C* from their hooste syr Pellounes      10-12 *C* what of  
 kynge Northgalys party and what of kynge Carados party & there began grete  
 party      12 *C* rasshyng      24 *C* and thenne he rode      26 *C*  
 thenne was sire Bleoberys wroth and      28 *C* Trystram mette with hym and  
 smote

sir Trystram gaff hym such a buffette that he sowned uppon  
hys horse. And so anone sir Dynadan cam to sir Trystram  
and seyde,

'Sir, I know the bettir than thou wenyst, but here I  
5 promyse the my trouth, I woll never com agaynſt the more,  
for I promyse the that swerde of thyne shall never com on  
my helme.'

So with that come sir Bleoberys, and sir Trystram gaff  
214<sup>v</sup> hym such a buffett that downe he abaysshed hys hede; and  
10 than he raught hym so sore by the helme that he pulled hym  
undir hys feete. And than kyng Arthure blew to lodgyng.

Than sir Trystram departed to hys pavyllion, and sir  
Dynadan rode with hym, and sir Persides. And kyng  
Arthure than, and the kyngis uppon bothe partyes, mer-  
15 vayled what knyght that was with the blacke shylde. Many  
knyghtis seyde their avyse; and som knew hym for sir  
Trystram and hylde their peace and wolde nat say. So that  
firste day kyng Arthure and all the kynges and lordis that  
were juges gaff sir Trystram the pryce, howbehyt they knew  
20 hym nat, but named hym the Knyght with the Blacke  
Shylde.

(31) Than uppon the morne sir Palomydes returned from the  
kyng of North Galis, and rode to kyng Arthurs syde, where  
was kyng Carados and the kyng of Irelande, and sir  
25 Launcelottis kynne, and sir Gawaynes kynne. So sir Palo-  
mydes sent the damesell unto sir Trystram that he sente to  
seke hym whan he was oute of hys mynde in the foreyst, and  
this damesell asked sir Trystramys what was hys name and  
what he was.

30 'As for that, telle sir Palomydes that he shall nat wete as  
at thys tyme, unto the tyme I have brokyn two spearis  
uppon hym. But lat hym wete thys much, that I am the  
same knyght that he smote downe in the over-evenynge at  
the turnemente, and telle hym playnly on what party that he  
35 be, I woll be of the contrary party.'

'Sir,' seyde the damesell, 'ye shall undirstonde that sir

1-2 C swowned in his sadel Thenne anone

C\* his hors feet

16 knyghtis *not in C*

C that said sir Tristram telle

33 C in ouer euenyng

9 C he leyd his hede

17 C wold nought say

32 C moche said sir Tristram

11

30



Palomydes wolle be on kyng Arthurs party where the moste noble knyghtes of the worlde be.'

'In the name of God,' seyde sir Trystram, 'than wolle I be with the kyng of Northe Galis, because of sir Palomydes wolle be on kyng Arthurs syde, and ellis I wolde nat but 5 for hys sake.'

So whan kyng Arthure was com they blew unto the fylde, and than there began a grete party. And so kyng Carados 215<sup>r</sup> justed with the Kyng with the Hondred Knyghtes, and there kyng Carados had a falle. Than was there hurlyng and 10 russhyng. And ryght so com in knyghtes of kyng Arthurs, and they bare on bak the kyng of North Galis knyghtes.

Than sir Trystram cam in, and began so rowghly and so bygly that there was none myght withstonde hym, and thus he endured longe. And at the laste by fortune he felle 15 amonge the felyshyp of kyng Ban. So there fylle uppon hym sir Bors de Ganys, and sir Ector de Marys, and sir Blamour de Ganys, and many othir knyghtes.

And than sir Trystram smote on the ryght honde and on the lyfte honde, that all lordis and ladyes spake of hys noble 20 dedis. But at the last sir Trystram sholde have had the wars, had nat the Kyng with the Hondred Knyghtes bene. And than he cam with hys felyshyp and rescowed sir Trystram, and brought hym away frome the knyghtes that bare the shyldis of Cornwayle. 25

And than sir Trystram saw another felyship by themselves, and there was a forty knyghtes togydir, and sir Kay le Senescial was their governoure. Than sir Trystram rode in amongyst them, and there he smote downe sir Kay frome hys horse, and there he fared amonge the knyghtis as a 30 grehounde amonge conyes.

Than sir Launcelot founde a knyght that was sore wounded uppon the hede.

'Sir,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'who wounded you so sore?'

'Sir,' he seyde, 'a knyght that bearyth a blacke shyld. 35 And I may curse the tyme that ever I mette with hym, for he ys a devyll and no man.'

1 C Arthurs syde      2 C world ben      4 C by cause syr Palomydes  
9 C kyng of the honderd.      14-15 C thus sire Tristram dured longe And at  
the last syr Trystram felle      28 C Seneschal      30 C lyke a

So sir Launcelot departed from hym, and thought to mete with sir Trystram, and so he rode with hys swerde idrawyn in hys honde to seke sir Trystram. And than he aspyed hym hurlyng here and there, and at every stroke  
 215<sup>v</sup> 5 sir Trystram well-nyghe smote downe a knyght.

'A! mercy Jesu!' seyde sir Launcelot, 'syth the firste tyme that ever I bare armys saw I never one knyght do so mervaylous dedys of armys. And if I sholde,' seyde sir Launcelot to hymself, 'sette uppon thys knyght now, I ded  
 10 shame to myself.'

And therewithall sir Launcelot put up hys swerde.

And than the Kynge with the Hondred Knyghtes, and an hondred mo of North Walis, sette uppon the twenty knyghtes of sir Launcelottes kynne, and they twenty knyghtes hylde  
 15 them ever togydir as wylde swyne, and none wolde fayle other. So sir Trystram, whan he behylde the nobles of thes twenty knyghtes, he mervayled of their good dedys, for he saw by their fare and rule that they had levyr dye than to avoyde the fylde.

20 'Now, Jesu,' seyde sir Trystram, 'well may [h]e be called valyaunte and full of proues that hath such a sorte of noble knyghtes unto hys kynne. And full lyke ys he to be a nobleman that ys their leder and governoure.'

He mente hit by sir Launcelot du Lake.

25 So whan sir Trystram had beholde them longe he thought s[h]ame to se two hondred knyghtes batterying uppon twenty knyghtes. Than sir Trystram rode unto the Kynge with the Hondred Knyghtes and seyde,

'Sir, leve your fyghtyng with tho twenty knyghtes, for  
 30 ye wyne no worship of them, ye be so many and they so feaw. And wyte you well, they woll nat oute of the fylde, I se by their chere and countenance, [and] worship get you none and ye sle them. Therefore leve your fyghtyng with them, for I, to encrese my worship, I woll ryde unto the

3 C drawn      4 C hym how he hurled here and there      6 C† said the kynge      6-7 C syth the tyme I bare      7 C neuer no knyght      8-9 C shold sette vpon this knyght said sir Launcelot to hym self I dyd      13 knyghtes not in C      16 C & so whan sir Tristram beheld      18 C fare and by theil reule      19 to not in C      20 C\* may he be      W may ye be called not in C      26 W (sidenote; later hand): shame      32 W countenance that worship      C\* countenance and worship      34 C euecrease      S encrease

twenty knyghtes and helpe them with all my myght and power.

'Nay,' seyde the Kynge with the Hondred Knyghtes, 'ye shall nat do so. Now I se youre corayge and curtesye, I woll withdraw my knyghtes for youre plesure, for evermore a good knyght woll favoure another, and lyke woll draw to lyke.' 216

Than the Kynge with the Hondred Knyghtes withdrew hys knyghtes. (32)

And all thys whyle and longe tofore sir Launcelot had wacched uppon sir Trystram in vearly purpose to have felyshipped with hym. And than suddenly sir Trystram, sir Dynadan and Governayle, hys man, rode their way into the foreyste, that no man perceyved where they wente. 15

So than kynge Arthure blew unto lodgyngge, and gaff the kynge of North Galis the pryce, bycause sir Trystram was uppon hys syde. Than sir Launcelot rode here and there as wode as a lyon that faughted hys fylle, because he had loste sir Trystram, and so he returned unto kynge Arthure. And than all the felde was in a noyse, that with the wynde hit myght be harde two myle how the lordys and ladyes cried: 20

'The Knyght with the Blacke Shylde hath won the fylde!' 25

'Alas,' seyde kynge Arthure, 'where ys that knyght becom? Hit ys shame to all tho in the fylde so to lette hym ascape away frome you, but with jantylnes and curtesye ye myght have brought hym unto me to thys Castell of Maydyns.' 30

Than kynge Arthur wente to hys knyghtes and comforted them, and seyde,

'My fayre felowis, be nat dismayde thoughe ye have loste the fylde thys day.' And many were hurte and sore wounded, and many were hole. 'My felowys,' seyde kyng Arthur, 'loke that ye be of good chere, for to-morn I woll be in the fylde with you and revenge you of youre enemyes.' 35

11 C with a very    19 C so wood as lyon    21 C in alle the felde was a  
22 C two myle thens    32 C\* them in the best wyse that he coude and sayd  
33 C dysmayed how be hit ye haue

So that nyght kynge Arthure and hys knyghtes reposed themselff.

So the damesell that com frome La Beall Isode unto sir Trystram, all the whyle the turnement was a-doyng she was  
5 with quylene Gwenvere, and ever the quene asked her for what cause she cam into that contrey.

‘Madame,’ she answerde, ‘I com for none other cause but frome my [lady], La Beall Isode, to wete of youre wellfare.’  
216<sup>v</sup> For in no wyse she wold nat telle the quene that she cam  
10 for sir Trystramys sake.

So thys lady, dame Brangwayn, toke hir leve of quene Gwenvyer, and she rode aftir sir Trystram. And as she rode thorow the foreyste she harde a grete cry. Than she commaunded hir squyar to go into that foreyste to wyte what was  
15 that noyse. And so he cam to a welle, and there he founde a knyght bounden tyll a tre, cryyng as he had bene woode, and his horse and hys harneys stondyng by hym.

And whan he aspyed the squyar, with a brayde he brake hymselff lowse, and toke hys swerde in hys honde and ran  
20 to have slayne that squyer. Than he toke hys horse and fledde to dame Brangwayne and tolde hir of hys adventure. Than she rode unto sir Trystramys pavylon, and tolde sir Trystram what adventure she had founde in the foreyste.

‘Alas,’ seyde sir Trystram, ‘uppon my hede, there ys som  
25 good knyght at myschyff.’

Than sir Trystram toke hys horse and hys swerde, and rode thyder, and there he harde how the knyght complayned unto hymselff and sayde,

‘I, wofull knyght, sir Palomydes! What mysseadventure  
30 befallith me that thus am defoyled with falsehed and treson, thorow sir Bors and sir Ector! Alas!’ he seyde, ‘why lyve I so longe?’

And than he gate his swerde in hys honde and made many straunge sygnes and tokyns, and so thorow the  
35 rageynge he threw hys swerd in that fountayne. Than sir Palomydes wayled and wrange hys hondys, and at the laste, for pure sorow, he ran into that fountayne and sought aftir

9 *C* wold not telle    *S* wold telle    18 *C* squyer ther with he abraide and brake

21 *C* fledde all that euer he myght vnto dame    33 *C* handes    34-5 *C* his  
ragynge    37 *C* ranne in to that Fontayne ouer his bely and soughte (*see note*)

hys swerde. Than sir Trystram saw that, and ran uppon  
sir Palomydes and hylde hym in hys armys faste.

'What art thou,' seyde sir Palomydes, 'that holdith me so?'

'I am a man of thys foreyste that wold the none harme.'

'Alas!' seyde sir Palomydes, 'I may never wyn worship  
where sir Trystram ys, for ever where he ys and I be, there  
gete I no worshyp. And yf he be away, for the moste party  
I have the gre, onles that sir Launcelot be there, othir ellis  
sir Lamerok.' Than sir Palomydes sayde, 'Onys in Irelande  
sir Trystram put me to the wors, and anothir tyme in  
Cornwayle and in other placis in thys londe.'

'What wolde ye do,' seyde sir Trystram, 'and ye had  
sir Trystram?'

'I wolde fyght with hym,' seyde sir Palomydes, 'and ease  
my harte uppon hym. And yet, to say the sothe, sir Trystram  
ys the jantyllyste knyght in thys worlde lyvyng.'

'Sir, what woll ye do?' seyde sir Trystram, 'woll ye go  
with me to youre lodgyng?'

'Nay,' he seyde, 'to the Kynge with the Hondred  
Knyghtes, for he rescowed me frome sir Bors de Ganys  
and sir Ector, and ellis had I bene slayne traytourly.'

And sir Trystram seyde hym such kynde wordys that  
sir Palomydes wente with hym to hys lodgyng. Than  
Governayle wente tofore and charged dame Brangwayne  
to go oute of the way to hir lodgyng, 'and byd ye  
Persides that he make hym no quarels.'

And so they rode togedirs tyll they cam to sir Trystrams  
pavylon, and there had sir Palomydes all the chere that  
myght be had all that nyght. But in no wyse sir Trystram  
myght nat be knowyn with sir Palomydes. And so aftir  
souper they yeode to reste, and sir Trystram for grete  
travayle slepte tyll hit was day. And sir Palomydes myght  
nat slepe for angwysshe, and so in the dawning of the day  
he toke hys horse prevayly and rode hys way unto Gaherys  
and to sir Sagramoure le Desirous, where the[y] were in  
their pavylons, for they three were felowis at the begynnynge  
of the turnemente.

6-7 *C* there thenne gete      8-9 *C* there or syr      12 *W* seyde seyde      17  
Sir not in *C*      19 *C*\* Nay sayde he I wille goo to the (*In W* seyde occurs at the  
end of a line. This may have caused the omission of I wille goo or some such words)  
26 *C* he      *S* ye      29-30 *C* sire Palomydes mygt not knowe what was syr Tristram

And than uppon the morne the kynge blew unto the turnemente uppon the third day.

- (33) So the kynge of Northe Galis and the Kynge of the Hon-  
dred Knyghtes, they two encountird with kynge Carados  
5 and the kynge of Irelande. And there the Kynge with the  
217<sup>v</sup> Hondred Knyghtes smote downe kynge Carados, and the  
kynge of Northe Galis smote downe the kynge of Irelande.

So with that cam in sir Palomydes, and he made grete worke, for by hys endented shylde he was well knowyn.  
10 So there cam in kynge Arthur and ded grete dedis of armys togydirs, and put the kynge of North Gales and the Kyng with the Hondred Knyghtes to the wars.

So with [this] cam in sir Trystram with hys blak shylde, and anone he justed with sir Palomydes, and there by fyne  
15 force sir Trystram smote sir Palomydes over hys horse croupe. Than kynge Arthure cryed,

‘Knyght with the blacke shylde, make the redy to me!’

And in the same wyse sir Trystram smote kynge Arthure.

And than by forse of kynge Arthurs knyghtes the kynge  
20 and sir Palomydes were horsed agayne. Than kynge Arthur with a grete egir harte, he gate a grete speare in hys honde, and there uppon the one syde he smote sir Trystram over hys horse.

Than foote-hote sir Palomydes cam uppon sir Trystram,  
25 as he was uppon foote, to have overryddyn hym. Than sir Trystram was ware off hym, and stowped a lytyll asyde, and with grete ire he gate hym by the arme and pulled hym downe frome hys horse.

Than sir Palomydes lyghtly arose, and [they] daysshed  
30 togydirs with their swerdys myghtly, that many kynges, quenys, lordys and ladyes stooode and behelde them. And at the last sir Trystram smote sir Palomydes uppon the helme three myghty strokes, and at every stroke that he gaff he seyde,

35 ‘Have thys for sir Trystramys sake!’

And with that sir Palomydes felle to the erthe grovelynge.

8-13 C With that... Soo came... With this 22 C† therupon 29-31 C and  
thenne they dassed to gyder myghtely with their swerdes and many kynges Quenes  
and lordes stode and beheld them 34 C gaf hym 35 C Have not in C†

Than cam the Kynge of the Hondred Knyghtes and brought sir Trystram an horse, and so was he horsed agayne. And by that tyme was sir Palomydes horsed, and with grete ire he justed uppon sir Trystram with hys speare as hit was in the reyste, and gaff hym a grete dayssh with hys swerde. 5  
 Than sir Trystram avoyded hys speare, and gate hym by the nek with hys bothe hondis, and pulled hym clene oute of hys sadle, and so he bare hym afore hym the lengthe of ten spearys, and than he lete hym falle at hys adventure. 218<sup>r</sup>

Than sir Trystram was ware of kynge Arthure with a naked swerde in hys honde, and with hys speare sir Trystram ran uppon kyng Arthure. And than kyng Arthure boldely abode hym, and with hys swerde he smote ato hys speare. And therewithall sir Trystram was astooned, and so kynge Arthure gaff hym three or four strokis or he myght gete oute hys swerde. And so sir Trystram drew hys swerde, and aythir of them assayled othir passyng harde, and with that the grete prease departed. 15

Than sir Trystram rode here and there and ded hys grete payne, that a twelve of the good knyghtes of the bloode of kynge Ban that were of sir Launcelottis [kyn] that day sir Trystram smote down, that all the estatis mervayled of their grete dedis, and all people [cryede] uppon the knyght with the blacke shylde. 20

So thys cry was so large that sir Launcelot harde hit, and than he gate a grete speare in hys honde and cam towardis the cry. Than sir Launcelot cryed, 25 (34)

‘Knyght with the blacke shylde, make ye redy to juste with me!’

Whan sir Trystram harde hym sey so, he gate hys speare in hys honde, and ayther abeysed their hedys downe lowe and cam togydir as thundir, that sir Trystrams speare brake in pecis. And sir Launcelot by malefortune stroke sir Trystram on the syde a depe wounde nyghe to the dethe. But yet sir Trystram avoyded nat hys sadyll, and so the speare brake therewithall. And yete sir Trystram gate oute 30

1 C kynge with the      2-3 C ageyn By thenne was      9 C thenne in the  
 presence of hem al he lete (see note)      13 C atwo      14 C Tristram stonyed  
 15 C four grete strokis      16 C and at the last sir      17 aythir of them *not in C*<sup>†</sup>  
 20 C that xi of the      22-9 C\* of his grete      31-2 Ceyther abeysed down their  
 hedes and      36 C ther with all sir tristram that was wounded gate oute

hys swerde, and he russed to sir Launcelot and gaff hym  
 three grete strokes uppon the helme, that the fyre sprange  
 oute, that sir Launcelot abeysed hys hede low toward hys  
 sadyll-bow. And so therewithall Trystram departed frome  
 218<sup>v</sup> 5 the fylde, for he felte hym so wounded that he wente he  
 sholde have dyed. And sir Dynadan aspyed hym and  
 folowed hym into the foreyste.

Than sir Launcelot abode and ded mervaylous dedys.

So whan sir Trystram was departed by the foreystis syde,  
 10 he alyght and unlaced hys harneys and freyssshed hys wounde.  
 Than wente sir Dynadan that he sholde have dyed, and  
 wepte.

'Nay, nay,' seyde sir Trystram, 'never drede you, sir  
 Dynadan, for I am harte-hole, and of thys wounde I shall  
 15 sone be hole, by the mercy of God!'

And anone sir Dynadan was ware where cam sir Palomydes rydyng streyte uppon them. Than sir Trystram was ware that sir Palomydes com to have destroyed hym, and so sir Dynadan gaff hym warnyng and seyde,

20 'Sir Trystram, my lorde, ye ar so sore wounded that ye may nat have ado with hym. Therefore I woll ryde agaynste hym and do to hym what I may, and yf I be slayne ye may pray for my soule. And so in the meanewhyle ye may withdraw you and go into the castell or into the foreyste, that  
 25 he shall nat mete with you.'

Sir Trystram smyled, and seyde,

'I thanke you, sir Dynadan, of your good wylle, but ye shall undirstond that I am able to handyll hym.'

And anone hastely he armed hym, and toke hys horse and  
 30 a grete speare in hys honde, and seyde to sir Dynadan 'Adew', and rode toward sir Palomydes a soffte pace.

Whan sir Palomydes saw hym he alyght and made a countenaunce to amende hys horse, but he ded hit for thys cause, for he abode sir Gaherys that cam afir hym. And  
 35 whan he was com he rode towards sir Trystram.

3 C hede lowely toward 8 C dyd many merueyllous dedes 11 W dyed  
 repeated in the margin in a later hand 11-12 and wepte not in C† 13-14  
 C Dynadan neuer drede the 16 C By that sir Dynadan 27 C\* Dynadan of  
 your good wylle but F (MS. B.N. fr. 334 f. 247<sup>v</sup> col. 1): quant il entendi la grant  
 franchise de Dynadan et la grant debonnaireté, il li respont en seuriant: 'Dynda-  
 dam, biaux amis' etc. 28 C shalle wete that 32 C† sawe that he made



Than sir Trystram sente unto sir Palomydes and requyred hym to juste with hym; and if he smote downe sir Palomydes he wolde do no more to hym, and if sir Palomydes smote downe sir Trystram, he bade hym do hys utteraunce. And so they were accorded and mette to-  
gydirs. 5

And sir Trystram smote downe sir Palomydes, that he 219<sup>r</sup>  
had a vylaunce falle and lay styлле as he had bene dede. And than sir Trystram ran uppon sir Gaherys, and he wold nat have justed, but whethir he wolde or wolde nat sir 10  
Trystram smote hym over hys horse croupe, that he lay styлле. And sir Trystram rode hys way and lefft sir Persides hys squyar within the pavelons.

And sir Trystram and sir Dynadan rode to an olde knyghtes place to lodge them; and thys olde knyght had 15  
fyve sonnes at the turnement that prayde God hartely for their commynge home. And so, as the Freynshe booke sayeth, they com home all fyve well beatyn.

And whan sir Trystram departed into the foreyste sir Launcelot hylde allwayes the stowre lyke harde, as a man 20  
araged that toke none hede to hymself. And wyte you well there was many a noble knyght ayenste hym. And whan kyng Arthure saw sir Launcelot do so mervaylous dedis of armys he than armed hym and toke hys horse and hys armour, and rode into the fylde to helpe sir Launcelot, and 25  
so many knyght[es] cam with kynge Arthure.

And to make shorte tale in conclusion, the kyng of North Galis and the Kynge of the Hondred Knyghtes were put to the wars. And bycause sir Launcelot abode and was the laste in the fylde, the pryse was gyvyn hym. But 30  
sir Launcelot, nother for kynge, quene, nother knyght, wolde thereoff. And where the cry was cryed thorow the fylde,

'Sir Launcelot hath wonne the filde thys day!'

Sir Launcelot made another cry contrary,

35

3-4 C yf it so happend that sire Palomydes 5 C accorded thenne they  
mette 8 C a greuous falle soo that he laye 10 C or not 12 C\* styлле  
as though he had ben dede And 12-13 C Persydes squyer 16 C turnement  
for whome he prayed 27 C† conclnsion S conclusion 29 C† pntte S putte  
31-2 C Launcelot wold neyther for kyng Quene (S Quene) ne knyghte haue the pryce  
but where 34-5 C Launcelot lete make an other crye

'Sir Trystram hath won the fylde, for he began firste, and lengyst hylde on, and so hathe he done the firste day, the secunde, and the thirde day!'

- (35) Than all the astatis and degrees, hyghe and lowe, seyde [of] sir Launcelot grete worship for the honoure that he ded to sir Trystram, and for the honour doying by sir Launcelot he was at that tyme more praysed and renowmed than [and] he had overthrowyn fyve hondred knyghtes. And all the  
 219<sup>v</sup> peple hole for hys jantilness, firste the astatis, hyghe and  
 10 lowe, and after the comynalté, at onys cryed,

'Sir Launcelot hath won the gre, whosoever sayth nay!'

Than was sir Launcelot wrothe and ashamed, and so therewithall he rode to kynge Arthure.

- 'Alas,' seyde the kynge, 'we ar all dismayde that sir  
 15 Trystram ys thus departed frome us! Pardé,' seyde kynge Arthur, 'he ys one of the nobelyst knyghtes that ever I saw holde speare in honde or swerde, and the moste curtayse knyght in hys fyghtyng. For full harde I sye hym bestad,' seyde kynge Arthure, 'whan he smote sir Palomydes uppon  
 20 the helme thryse, that he abaysshed hys helme with hys strokis. And also he seyde "here ys a stroke for sir Trystram", and thus he seyde thryse.'

- Than kynge Arthur and sir Launcelot and sir Dodynae le Saveage toke their horsis to seke aftir sir Trystram.  
 25 And by the meanys of sir Persides, he had tolde kynge Arthure where sir Trystramys pavylyon was. But whan they cam there, sir Trystram and sir Dynadan was gone. Than kynge Arthur and sir Launcelot was hevvy and returned ayen to the Castell Maydyns makyng grete dole for the  
 30 hurte of sir Trystram, and hys suddeyne departyng.

'So God me helpe,' seyde kynge Arthur, 'I am more hevvy that I can nat mete with hym than I am for all the hurtys that all my knyghtes have had at the turnement.'

And so furthwith cam sir Gaherys and tolde kynge

1-2 C fyrst and last he hath endured and soo hath he 4 W and of degrees C  
 and degrees 6-7 C doying to sir Tristram he was 9 C estates both hyhe  
 10 C cryed at onys 11 C wonne the felde who soo euer saye nay 15 C vs  
 By god said 17 C spere or swerd in hand curteyst 18 bestad not in C  
 24 aftir not in C 26 C Tristram was in his paelione but 27 C were gone  
 28 C were heny (S heuy) 32 C hym thenne for al 34 C Ryght soo  
 came sir Gaherys:

Arthur how sir Trystram had smytten downe sir Palomydes, and hit was at hys owne requeste.

'Alas,' seyde kynge Arthur, 'that was grete dishonoure to sir Palomydes, inasmuch as sir Trystram was so sore wounded. And may we all, kyngis and knyghtes and men of worship, sey that sir Trystram may be called a knyght and one of the beste knyghtes that ever y saw dayes of my lyff. For I woll that ye all, kyngis and knyghtes, know,' seyde kynge Arthur, 'that I never saw knyght do so mervaylously as he hath done thes three dayes, for he was the firste that began, and the lengyst that hylde on, save thys laste day; and thoughe he were hurte hit was a manly adventure of two noble knyghtes. And whan two noble men encountir, nedis muste the tone have the worse, lyke as God wyll suffir at that tyme.'

'Sir, as for me,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'for all the londys that ever my fadir leffte I wolde nat have hurt sir Trystram and I had knowyn hym at that tyme that I hurte hym: for I saw nat hys shyld. For and I had seyne hys blacke shyld, I wolde nat have medled with hym for many causis,' seyde sir Launcelot. 'For but late he ded as muche for me, as ever ded knyght, and that ys well knowyn, that he had ado with thirty knyghtes and no helpe only save sir Dynadan. And one thyng shall I promyse you,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'sir Palomydes shall repente hit, as in hys unknyghtly delynge so for to folow that noble knyght that I be mysfortune hurte hym thus.'

So sir Launcelot seyde all the worship that myght be spokyn by sir Trystram.

Than kyng Arthure made a grete feste to all that wolde com.

And thus we lat passe kynge Arthure, and a lityll we woll turne unto sir Palomydes, that aftir he had a falle of sir Trystram he was nerehonde araged oute of hys wytte for despite of sir Trystram, and so he folowed hym by adventure. And as he cam by a ryver, in hys woodnes he wolde

2 C atte syr Palomydes owne request      4 so *not in C*      5 C and now may  
6 C\* a noble knyght      7 C the dayes      11 C and that lengest held on sauf  
16 C As for me      17 C lefte me      18-19 C that I hurt hym was for I sawe  
21 but *not in C*      23 *only not in C*      24 you *not in C*      25-6 C his vn-  
kyndely delynge for      26-7 C by myshap hurted thus      29 C said by

have made hys horse to have lopyn over the watir, and the horse fayled footyng and felle in the ryver, wherefore sir Palomydes was adrad leste he shulde have bene drowned.

And than he avoyde hys horse and swam to the londe,  
(36) 5 and lete hys horse go downe by adventure. And whan he cam to the londe he toke of hys harnys and sate romynge and crynge as a man oute of hys mynde.

Ryght so cam a damesell evyn by sir Palomydes, that was sente [fro] sir Gawayne and hys brothir unto sir Mordred  
10 that lay syke in the same place with that olde knyght where sir Trystram was. For, as the booke seythe, sir Persides  
220<sup>v</sup> hurte so sir Mordred a ten dayes afore, and had hit nat bene for the love of sir Gawayne and hys brethirn, sir Persides had slayne sir Mordred.

15 And so this damysell cam by sir Palomydes, and he and she had langage togyder, whych pleased neythir of them. And so thys damesell rode her wayes tyll she cam to that olde knyghtes place, and there she tolde that olde knyght how she mette with the woodist knyght by adventure that  
20 ever she mette withall.

'What bare he in hys shylde?' seyde sir Trystram.

'Sir, hit was endented with whyght and blacke,' seyde the damesell.

'A,' seyde sir Trystram, 'that was Palamydes, the good  
25 knyght. For well I know hym,' seyde sir Trystram, 'for one of the beste knyghtes lyvyng in thys realme.'

Than that olde knyght toke a lityll hakeney and rode for sir Palomydes, and brought hym unto hys owne maner. And full well knew sir Trystram hym, but he sayde but  
30 lytill. For at that tyme sir Trystram was walkyng uppon hys feete and well amended of hi[s] hurtis, and allwayes whan sir Palomydes saw sir Trystram he wolde beholde hym full mervaylously, and ever hym semed that he had sene hym. Than wolde he sey unto sir Dynadan,

35 'And ever I may mete with sir Trystram, he shall nat escape myne hondis.'

1 C haue lepte ouer	the watir not in C	4 C auoyded	6 C rorynge
9 W sente for	11 C the Frensshe book	13 C broder	15-16 C she and
he	16 C the whiche	22 Sir not in C	29 C Trystram syr Palomydes
but	31 W hir hurtis	C* his hurtis	

'I mervayle,' seyde sir Dynadan, 'that ye do boste behynde sir Trystram so, for hit ys but late that he was in youre hondys and ye in hys hondis. Why wolde ye nat holde hym whan ye had hym? For I saw myselff twyse or thryse that ye gate but lytyll worship of sir Trystram.'

Than was sir Palomydes ashamed. So leve we them a lytyll whyle in the castell with the olde knyght sir Darras.

Now shall we speke of kynge Arthure, that seyde to sir Launcelot,

'Had nat ye bene, we had nat loste sir Trystram, for he was here dayly unto the tyme ye mette with hym. And in an evyll tyme,' seyde kynge Arthure, 'ye encountred with hym.'

'My lorde Arthure,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'ye shall undirstonde the cause. Ye put now uppon me that I sholde be causer of hys departicion; God knowith hit was ayenste my wyll! But whan men bene hote in dedis of armys, oftyn hit ys seyne they hurte their frendis as well as their foyes. And, my lorde,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'ye shall undirstonde that sir Trystram ys a man that I am ryght lothe to offende to, for he hath done more for me than ever y ded for hym as yet.'

But than sir Launcelot mad brynge forthe a boke, and than seyde sir Launcelot,

'Here we ar ten knyghtes that woll swere uppon thys booke never to reste one nyght where we reste another thys twelve-month, untill that we fynde sir Trystram. And as for me,' seyde sir Launcelot, 'I promyse you uppon thys booke that, and I may mete with hym, other with fayrenes othir with fowlnes I shall brynge hym to thys courte, other elles I shall dye therefore.'

And the namys of thes ten knyghtes that had undirtake thys queste [were these folowyng]: first was sir Launcelot; sir Ector de Marys, sir Bors de Ganys, and sir Bleoberys, sir Blamour de Ganys, sir Lucan de Butler, sir Uwayne, sir Galyhud, sir Lyonel, and sir Galyodyn. So thes ten noble

2 *not in C*    7 *C* the old castel    12 *kynge not in C*    14 *sir not in C*  
 14-15 ye shall undirstonde the cause *not in C*    15-16 *C* ben cause    17-18  
 hit ys seyne *not in C*    20 *C* offende for    23 *C* sir launcelot said  
 24-5 *C* vpon a booke    28-9 *C* fayrenes or foulnesse    33 *C* Beloberis    34  
*C* Blamor de ganys and Lucan the botteler    35 *C* Galyhad Lyonel and  
 Galyodyn

knyghtes departed frome the courte of kynge Arthū, and so they rode uppon theire queste togydirs tyll they com to a crosse where departed four wayes, and there departed the felyship in four to seke sir Trystram.

- 5 And as sir Launcelot rode, by adventure he mette with dame Brangwayne that was sente into that cōntrey to seke sir Trystram, and she fled as faste as her palfrey myght go. So sir Launcelot mette with her and asked why she fled.

‘A, fayre knyght,’ seyde dame Brangwayne, ‘I fle for  
10 drede of my lyff, for here folowith me sir Breuse Saunz Pité to sle me.’

‘Holde you nyghe me,’ seyde sir Launcelot.

And whan he sye sir Breuse Saunz Pité (he) cryed unto hym and seyde,

- 15 ‘False knyght, destroyer of ladyes and damesels, now thy laste dayes be com!’

221<sup>v</sup> Whan sir Breuse Saunce Pité saw sir Launcelottis shyld he knew hit well, for at that tyme he bare nat the shyld of Cornwayle, but he bare hys owne. And than sir Breuse  
20 returned and fled, and sir Launcelot folowed aftir hym. But sir Breuse was so well horsed that whan hym lyst to fle he myght fle whan he wolde and abyde whan he wolde. And than sir Launcelot returned unto dame Brangwayne, and [she] thanked sir Launcelot of hys curtesy and grete  
25 laboure:

- (37) Now woll we speke of sir Lucan de Butler, that by fortune he cam rydyng to the same place thereas was sir Trystram, and in he cam for none other entente but to aske herberow. Than the porter asked what was hys name.

30 ‘Sir, telle youre lorde that my name ys sir Lucan de Butler, a knyght of the Rounde Table.’

So the porter yode unto sir Darras, lorde of the place, and tolde hym who was there to aske herberow.

- ‘Nay, nay,’ seyde sir Daname that was newew unto sir  
35 Darras, ‘sey hym that he shall nat be lodged here. But lat

10 C saunce pyte 13 C\* Thenne whanne sire Launcelot sawe sir Breuse  
saunce pytesyr launcelot 18-19 C\* the armes of 19 C\* owneshelde 20  
returned and *not in C* C† and syr Tristram 22-3 C myght wel fle and also  
abyde whan hym lyst And thenne 24 C she thanked hym of his grete 26 C  
Lucan the buttelere 29-30 C his name Telle 30-1 C Lucan the botteler  
32 C wente vnto

hym wete that I, sir Danam, woll mete with hym anone, and byd hym make hym redy.'

So sir Danam com forthe on horseback, and there they met togydirs with spearys. And sir Lucan smote downe sir Danam over hys horse croupe, and than he fled into that place, and 5 sir Lucan rode aftir hym [and asked after hym] many tymys.

Than sir Dynadan seyde to sir Trystram,  
'Hit ys shame to se the lordys cousyne of thys place defoyled.'

'Abyde,' seyde sir Trystram, 'and I shall redresse hit.' 10

And in the meanewhyle sir Dynadan was on horsebacke, and he justed with sir Lucan, and he smote sir Dynadan thorow the thycke of [the] thyghe, and so he rode hys way. And sir Trystram was wroth that sir Dynadan was hurte, and he folowed aftir and thought to avenge hym. And 15 within a whyle he overtoke sir Lucan and bade hym turne, and so they mette togydirs. And sir Trystram hurte sir Lucane passyng sore and gaff hym a falle.

So with that com sir Uwayne, a jantill knyght, and whan he saw sir Lucan so hurte he called to sir Trystram to juste. 20 222<sup>r</sup>

'Fayre knyght,' seyde sir Trystram, 'telle me youre name, I requyre you.'

'Sir knyght, wite you well my name ys sir Uwayne, le Fyze de Roy Ureyne.'

'A,' seyde sir Tristram, 'be my wyll I wolde nat have 25 ado with you at no tyme.'

'Sir, ye shall nat do so,' seyde sir Uwayne, 'but ye shall have ado with me.'

And than sir Trystram saw none other boote but rode ayenste hym, and overthrew sir Uwayne and hurte hym in 30 the syde, and so he departed unto hys lodgyng agayne.

And whan sir Danam undirstood that sir Trystram had hurte sir Lucan he wolde have ryddyn aftir hym for to have slayne hym. But sir Trystram wolde nat suffir hym.

Than sir Uwayne lete ordayne an horse-litter, and brought 35 sir Lucan to the abbay of Ganys. And the castell thereby hyght the Castell off Ganys, of the whych sir Bleoberys was

12 C with Lucan þe botteler & ther sir lucan smote dynadā (S smote doune dynadā) 17 C to gyders soo that sire Tristram 18 C Lucan 20 to not in C C Iuste with hym 24 C fyse 26-7 C no tyme ye shalle not soo (see note) 32 C† sire Dynadan (see note) 33 C hnrte S hurte C after syr Lucan for

lorde. And at that castell sir Launcelot promysed, all hys felowis there to mete in the queste of sir Trystram.

So whan sir Trystram was com to hys lodgyng, there cam a damsell that tolde sir Darras that three of his sunnys  
 5 were slayne at that turnemente, and two grevously wounded so that they were never lyke to helpe themself: and all thys was done by a noble knyght that bare a blacke shyld, and that was he that bare the pryce.

Than cam one and tolde sir Darras that the same knyght  
 10 was within hys courte that bare the blacke shyld. Than sir Darras yode unto sir Trystramys chambir, and there he founde hys shyld and shewed hit to the damesell.

'A, sir,' seyde the damesell, 'thys same ys he that slewe youre three sunnys.'

15 Than withoute ony tarynyge sir Darras put sir Tristram, sir Palomydes, and sir Dynadan within a stronge preson, and there sir Trystram was lyke to have dyed of grete syknes.

And every day sir Palomydes wolde repreve sir Trystram of olde hate betwyxt them, and ever sir Trystram spake  
 20 fayre and seyde lytyll. But whan sir Palomydes se that sir  
 222<sup>v</sup> Trystram was falle in syknes, than was he hevvy for hym and comforted hym in all the beste wyse he coude.

And, as the Freynshe booke sayth, there cam fourty  
 knyghtes to sir Darras that were of hys owne kynne, and they  
 25 wolde have slayne sir Trystram and hys felowis, but sir Darras wolde nat, but put them in preson, and mete and drynke they had.

So sir Trystram endured there grete payne, for syknes had undirtake hym, and that ys the grettist payne a presoner  
 30 may have. For all the whyle a presonere may have hys helth of body, he may endure undir the mercy of God and in hope of good delyveraunce; but whan syknes towchith a presoners body, than may a presonere say all welth ys hym berauffte, and than hath he cause to wayle and wepe. Ryght  
 35 so ded sir Trystram whan syknes had undirtake hym, for than he toke such sorow that he had allmoste slayne hymself.

2 there *not in C* 3-4 *C* ther came *S* ther cam 10 *C* within hym that  
 15-16 *C* Tristram and syre 20-1 *C* Palomydes sawe the fallynge of seke-  
 nesse of sir Tristram thenne was he 25 *C* his two felawes 26 *C*\* not suffre  
 that but kepte them (*see note*) 33 *C* bo y 34 *C* he hath